52a-1942
Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

THE UNHOLY POLITICAL ALLIANCE

The resounding Republican victories in the November elections has brought about a rapprochement of the various reactionary political forces in both parties which is rapidly growing into an alliance against the New Deal and its policy of national reform.

On the Republican side the fair-haired boys of corporate wealth, encouraged by the November vote, are advocating the scuttling of all progressive legislation enacted under the New Deal and a general pushing back of the clock. They are preparing even now to knife Wendell Willkie, who has committed the "error" of too often agreeing with New Deal policies.

On the Democratic side the hardboiled oligarchs from the Poll Tax Belt and the ward politicians of the Kelly-Nash and Hague machines, have been strengthened by the November G.O.P. landslide which weakened the Democrats generally. Angered by Administration "interference" with State's Rights, they are joining forces with the Republican politicians to administer a spanking to the New Deal.

It is notable that while the Pepper Anti-Poll Tax Bill was an Administration-sponsored measure, Pepper was the only Southern Senator favoring it.

Representative Hatton Sumners, the Texas Negrophobe, castigated the New Deal bureaucrats last week as "this bunch of people who don't know anything about America and care less," while his Georgia colleague, Representative Cox hinted that Southern white people might be ready to "break with tradition."

Further attacks on New Deal programs were made by Rankin of Mississippi and Barden of North Carolina. And the Virginia Democrats have been consistently reactionary.

Taken in conjunction with the "anti-Communist" investigations in Government bureaus by the Dies Committee and the general grumbling against "New Deal theorists," the evidence seems to point to an unholy alliance aimed at 1944.

Such an alliance is not as incongruous as it appears on the surface. While the Southern Democratic bloc has appeared to be interested only in keeping the Negro down in order to hold office perpetually, its principal (though concealed) interest has been to serve the planter-banker-mill owner minority which is actually owned by the same Northern financial interests that dictate to Tammany, to Hague and to Mayor Kelly.

The stage is being set now for the next Presidential election in which these strange allies hope to rid the country of all social gains made since 1933, liquidate small business and "put organized labor in its place." Obviously there will be no gain for the Negro in any such arrangement.

The New Deal will be in more and more of a precarious position as 1944 approaches. The Southern Oligarchy which has always disliked it and feared its liberalism may desert it to a greater extent than it did Al Smith in 1928; and without the Solid South it cannot survive unless organized labor comes to its rescue.

Perhaps this is why the Administration refuses to heed the increasingly loud appeals of the reactionaries to "put labor in its place."

Dothan, Ala. Eagle
November 30, 1942

Anti-Poll Tax Echoes

Braying like the donkey he so often emulates, Florida's Senator Claude Pepper, who teamed up with Negro radical Walter White against his native Southland in the anti-poll tax fight, is now demanding that Congress outlaw the filibuster.

The filibuster is the weapon courageous Southern Senators who have not yet sold out their constituents to the New Deal social reformers used in defeating Senator Pepper's anti-poll tax bill. He is indignant that his bill was defeated, knows that the same tactics will defeat it the next time it gets before the Senate, and therefore wants to destroy this most potent of Congressional weapons.

But Senator Pepper is not alone in his fight. He has the support of such newspapers as The Louisville Times, which is one of those publications that sees no evil, hears no evil and believes no evil can befall the Democratic party by playing too long with its New Deal element. Lauding Senator Pepper's attack on the filibuster, The Times recently said that there was never a time in the nation's history when the filibuster could have been deemed useful; that no Senator who calls himself a Democrat can conscientiously oppose the change.

Of course there are a lot of answers to Senator Pepper and the Louisville reform organ, but Editor Cash Stanley of The Alabama Journal offers one of the pithiest of the rebuttals. Writes he:

"This shows how a good Democrat can go wrong, and how far out on a limb an obsession may lead an otherwise level-headed man.

"The filibuster is the most potent weapon in our system of government for protection of a minority from a tyrannous majority.

"The rights and protection of minorities are part of our system.

"What is the minority today will probably be the majority tomorrow.

"If the filibuster is never right, then the minority is never right and never is justified in defending itself against injustice. If minority resistance to majority oppression is never right, Arnold von Winkelreid would never have seized an armful of enemy lances with his cry of 'Make way for liberty.' If minorities must always keep still, Patrick Henry would have been silent in the presence of the overpowering might of British red coats. If a minority filibuster had not been invoked a greedy, cruel gang in Washington would have placed federal bayonets over Southern ballot boxes long ago when vindictive and tyrannical men were in power and wanted to impose a force bill.

" 'Filibuster never right!' Shades of John T. Morgan."

No more eloquent defense of the filibuster has come to our attention.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Alabama Democrats, State Secretary Reject Atty. A. B. Shores' Candidacy

Party Chairman Notes "Would-Be Candidate Was Not A White Man"

BIRMINGHAM — (ANP) — The candidacy of Atty. Arthur B. Shores here for the Alabama legislature was declined by both the chairman of the state Democratic committee and the secretary of state last Saturday, and his declaration papers and filing fee were returned to him on the grounds that he was a Negro and therefore not eligible to participate in candidacies for state offices.

According to Chairman Gressner McCorvey, it was not noticed that the "would-be-candidate, Arthur D. Shores, was not a white man."

John Brandon, secretary of state, declared he had written Shores quoting primary rules which "restricted the primary to white electors."

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Shores commented upon the matter by saying "I might consider running as an independent."

The attorney figured recently that the case before the state supreme court in which the court ruled against Negroes registering for the right to vote, and which the attorney plans to place before the U. S. Supreme Court.

A native of Birmingham, Attorney Shores is a graduate of Industrial High School, Talladega College; studied law at University of Kansas and is a former principal of Dunbar High School. He has been practicing law since October, 1937, when as one of 1-9 who passed the bar, he took the honor of being the first Negro to do so in 20 years.

He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha, Masons, Elks, Pythians; president of Jefferson County Negro Democratic club and recent re-electee to the legal staff of NAACP. He is married and has one child, a daughter of eight months.

Gadsden Ala. Times
March 1, 1942

Negro Seeks To Enter Primary

Application For Place On County Committee Rejected By Chairman

K. J. Sullivan, a young Negro who conducts a local insurance business and edits a Negro newspaper Friday afternoon filed an application with Chairman Edward B. Miller of the Democratic executive committee to be certified as a candidate for member of the committee from Beat One, Box Six. Chairman Miller rejected the application.

It is reported that something of this kind has happened in several counties over the state, indicating a concerted move of some kind.

Sullivan, who appeared personally at Chairman Miller's office was told that the application could not be received because the affidavit which every applicant signs required an oath that the applicant is a member of the white race.

Sullivan is said to have suggested that he could scratch out the word "White" and mark an "X" on the margin, calling attention to the change. Later he came back with an affidavit filled out and marked as he suggested, but Mr. Miller refused to accept it. Sullivan remarked then that he might make a test case of the question.

At about six o'clock that afternoon Chairman Miller received a special, registered letter from Sullivan with the changed application, a one dollar bill and a note declaring his candidacy.

The money and the application were returned by Chairman Miller with the explanation that the call for the Democratic primary regulations state that it is a white primary and that only qualified white electors may participate.

STATE COMMITTEE REFUSES CERTIFICATION TO NEGRO

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Feb. 28.—(AP)—The state Democratic executive committe declined today to certify Arthur D. Shores, Birmingham Negro attorney, as a candidate for the Alabama House of Representatives in the party's May 5 primary.

A former school teacher, Shores declared after learning of the action that he would run in the general election as an independent candidate.

He filed his declaration of candidacy yesterday with the probate judge here, Secretary of State John Brandon and Committee Chairman Gessner T. McCorvey of Mobile.

Brandon pointed out that a resolution adopted by the state Democratic committee January 9 required that among other things that candidates must be "qualified white electors."

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

ATTEMPT IS FIRST SINCE EARLY '70'S

Shores Files Application Which Is Accepted By Committee Head

MAR 7 1942

B-U-L-L-E-T-I-N

BIRMINGHAM. (A N P) — The candidacy of Atty. Arthur B. Shores here for the Alabama legislature was declined by both the chairman of the state Democratic committee and the secretary of state last Saturday, and his declaration papers and filing fee were returned to him on the grounds that he was a Negro and therefore not eligible to participate in candidacies for state offices.

MAR 7 1942

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By LOUIS E. BURNHAM

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — When Arthur D. Shores, the only Negro member of the Birmingham bar, filed application last Tuesday to run in the Democratic primaries on May 5, he became the first of his race in Alabama to seek elective office since the Reconstruction period.

Shores' application as candidate for the Democratic nomination as member of the state legislature from Jefferson county, was accompanied by the candidate's fee of $25, and has been accepted by Gessner T. McCorvey, chairman of the State Democratic executive committee.

In the late '60's and early '70's Negroes held a number of seats in both the house and the senate of the state legislature.

But with the end of Reconstruction and the adoption of the "white supremacy" rule in Democratic party primaries, Negroes have not only been kept from seeking office, but have effectively been excluded from the ballot boxes.

The prospects that Shores' campaign would proceed without colliding with the "white surpemacy" provisions were dimmed as reports circulated that state and party officials planned to return the candidate's application and fee on the ground that it was not known he was a Negro when they were accepted.

MAR

Shores confirmed these reports and outlined his strategy for combating any action which officials may take.

He stated that a reporter from the Birmingham Post, local Scripps-Howard daily paper, had informed him that the paper had received a wire from McCorvey stating that both the state Democratic chairman and Alabama's secretary of state, John Brandon, had decided to reverse the acceptance of the application. Shores displayed a notarized duplicate of the application form which he had filed.

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One sentence reads, "I further certify that I am a qualified WHITE elector of the State of Alabama and possess the qualifications fixed by law for the office for which I am a candidate."

Shores had marked through the word "white" with a read pencil and placed a notation in the margin to draw attention to its deletion. The candidate claims that he took sufficient precaution to acquaint officials with his racial identity.

Shores stated that if his application is rejected he will follow one of two courses. The first would be to accept the rejection and run as an independent candidate.

The other would be to contest the decision and file suit against officials of the Democratic party. Stating that the latter procedure might cause a stoppage of the entire primary election procedure in the state, the attorney pointed out that officials would be liable to criminal prosecution under federal statutes.

He recalled that supreme court decisions in the famed Texas primaries case and in recent cases in Louisiana and Oklahoma have held that so long as primary elections are conducted with state machinery, utilizing officials who are paid by the state, there can be no discrimination against Negroes because of race.

lone Negro attorney in Birmingham education in this city. He was grad- —he is one of two in the entire state uated from Talladega college and of Alabama. The other is Charles tional Association for the Advance- V. Hendley, state master of the ment of Colored Pepole as well as Masons, who practices in Huntsville, law training at LaSalle received his law training at the Law School in Chicago and University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kans. the that organization's regional counsel.

MAR 7 - 1942

Shores is a native of Birmingham, having completed his public school

He has been practicing in Birmingham for five years and is treas-

Arthur D. Shores is not only the

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Negro Declares His Candidacy For Legislature

Lawyer At Birmingham Mails Qualification To McCorvey At Mobile

FEB 28 1942

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Feb. 27.—(AP)—Arthur D. Shores, Birmingham negro attorney, filed today as a candidate for the State Legislature from Jefferson County in the Democratic primary May 5.

Shores filed his declaration of candidacy with the secretary of State at Montgomery and the probate judge here, and said he mailed his entry fee to Gessner T. McCorvey, chairman of the State Democratic Executive Committee, at Mobile.

McCorver declined comment pending receipt of the entry fee. Usually, the Democratic primary is confined to white candidates.

The State committee, which governs the party primaries, submits the official list of qualifiers before primary ballots are printed. FEB 28 1942

Shores has been an attorney here for five years, and said he voted the Democratic ticket in the 1940 general election.

Brassell To Run

J. W. Brassell of Phenix City, qualified as a candidate for attorney general with Secretary of State Brandon Friday. His action insures opposition for O. P. Lee, of Opelika, who had been left temporarily as the only candidate for Attorney General with the withdrawal Thursday of Silas C. Garrett, who came out of the race so as to be available if called for military service. Mr. Brassell is a former Montgomerian, and served as assistant attorney general some 15 years ago. It was reported unofficially at the capitol that Willard McCall, also a former assistant Attorney General and now deputy solicitor of Jefferson County, will get into the race, with possibly other entries.

Deadline for qualification of candidates is midnight Saturday, with Chairman McCorvey, of the State Democratic Executive Committee, at Mobile. Candidates have five days after Saturday to file with Mr. Brandon, but must qualify and put up the required fee with Mr. McCorvey by Saturday midnight. FEB 28 1942

W. D. Dobbins, of Birmingham, qualified Friday as a candidate for Congress from the district, composed of Jeffer County, assuring a three-cornered race there, with Congressman Luther Patrick already opposed by John Newsom.

A total of 45 candidates filed with Secretary of State Brandon Friday. W. Clint Harrison filed for another term as member of the Alabama Public Service Commission, for which no opposition has developed so far.

Others qualifying were:

For circuit solicitor, Edward deGraffenreid, Tuscaloosa, 6th circuit, and William C. Rayburn, Guntersville, 9th circuit.

For State Senate, Cruser M. Graves, Lowndesboro, 16th district, Lowndes County; S. P. Dale, Oak Hill, 22nd district, Wilcox County; Ed Morton, Jasper, 12th district, Fayette, Lamar and Walker Counties; and F. E. Throckmorton, Tuscumbia, 31st district, Colbert, Franklin, and Marion Counties. FEB 28 1942

For House of Representatives: Paul Coburn, Tuscumbia, Colbert County; D. G. Barnes, Skipperville, Dale; Lee H. Enloe, Gadsden, Etowah; M. V. Jones, Fayette, Fayette; Hugh B. DuBose, Birmingham, Guy A. Matlock, Birmingham; Wallace C. Johns, Jr., Birmingham; Tram Sessions, Birmingham; Charlie McVea, Birmingham; A. A. Swafford, Birmingham; Victor C. Harwood, Fairfield, Jefferson; D. W. Ward, Opelika, Lee; Henry K. Dickinson, Opelika, Lee; Thomas A. Johnston, III, Mobile, Mobile; E. L. Drinkard, Falkville, Morgan; O. W. Hancock, Ethelville, Pickens; J. Henry Mize, Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa; A. C. McGlaun, Jasper, Walker County; J. L. Stephenson, Parrish, Walker; P. E. Wallace, Snow Hill, Wilcox.

For State Democratic Executive Committee: A. L. Crumpton, Ashland; Cecil G. Brown, Tallassee; Roy M. Woolf, Anniston, Maury A. McWilliams, Prattville; E. L. Bellenger, Gadsden; John C. Coleman, Albertville; Pelham J. Merrill, Heflin; Joe G. Burns, Tuscaloosa; E. W. Skidmore, Tuscaloosa; Wesley G. Beinert, Eutaw; G. E. Davis, Gordo; J. D. Conwell, Jasper; H. H. Kinney, Cullman; Hewlett Jackson, Florence; Ira B. Kerlin, Birmingham.

FEB 28 1942

Secretary of State John Brandon Friday received Shores's "declaration of candidacy" and announced that he was returning it to the sender, on the ground that it failed to comply with rules promulgated by the State Democratic Executive Committee. In regulations adopted at a meeting here in January, the committee followed the usual procedure and limited participation in the Democratic primary to "qualified white electors", both as candidates and as voters. Mr. Brandon said in the document he received from Shores, in which the candidate is required among other things to certify that he is a "qualified white elector" the word "white" had been deleted, thus in his opinion obviously disqualifying it.

Rejection of Shores's attempted qualification by Chairman McCorvey of the State committee was considered a foregone conclusion, for the same reason. In this connection, it was pointed out that the declaration of candidacy required to be filed with the Secretary of State under the Corrupt Practice Act does not of itself entitle the filer to a place on the primary ballot. On the contrary, the ballot is prepared by the Secretary of State from a list certified to him by the State committee chairman, whose duty it is to see that prospective candidates meet the requirements prescribed by the committee. FEB 28 1942

Local observers saw in Shores's action a possible prelude to court action to test the right of Democratic party authorities to fix qualifications for candidates in the primary. It was assumed that Shores, described as a Birmingham attorney, was perhaps aware of the traditional Democratic primary rules in this State and the likely consequence of his attempt to qualify, and might be laying a predicate for a legal effort to win a place on the ballot.

Seeks State Post

Birmingham World



FEB 27 1942

Att'y Arthur D. Shores, who has filed an application to qualify for running for the State House of Representatives on the Democratic ticket. He seeks to run for his public office.

Attorney Shores Seeks Post In Alabama House

Birmingham World
Birmingham, Ala.
FEB 27 1942

Att'y Arthur D. Shores Tuesday by filing application with Hon Gessner T. McCovery, chairman of the State Democratic Committee Mobile, declared himself a candidate for the Alabama House of Representatives from Jefferson County.

His application with the qualifying fee declared he was a qualified elector and sought nomination in the May 5 Democratic primary and election in the June 2 balloting.

Lawyer Shores is head of the Negro Democratic Council and recently became an electee on the NAACP national legal staff.

Liberal daily newspaper in exceptional cases have sai deditorially tional cases have said editorially that it would doubtless be a great service to the State to have a Negro in the Alabama Legislature.

Athens, Ala., Democrat
March 5, 1942

Will Not Certify Negro Candidate

The state democratic executive committee declined to certify Arthur D. Shores, Birmingham negro attorney, as a candidate for the Alabama house of representatives in the party's May 5 primary.

A former school teacher, Shores decared after learning of the action that he would run in the general election as an independent candidate.

He filed his declaration of candidacy with the probate judge, Secretary of State John Brandon and Committee Chairman Gessner T. McCorvey of Mobile.

McCorvey, who said Shores would not be certified, declared he was returning his entry fee and declaration of candidacy.

Brandon, who likewise asserted he would return the declaration, pointed out that a resolution adopted by the state democratic committee January 9 required among other things that candidates must be "qualified white electors." He said he was enclosing a copy of the measure.

Democratic primaries in Alabama usually are confined to white candidates and are regulated by the state committee. The committee submits the official list of qualifiers before primary ballots are printed.

Shores has practiced law in Birmingham for five years. He said he voted the democratic ticket in the 1940 general election.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Alabamans Sue for $5,000 Damages For Vote Denial

SEP 11 1942

BIRMINGHAM. —(ANP)— A suit for $5,000 damages and for the right to register as a qualified voter in Jefferson county was filed Friday by W. L. Patterson in federal court through his attorney, Arthur D. Shores.

The suit charges that Rufus Bethea, Sterling J. Foster and Herman A. Shisenant refused to register him on June 27 solely because of his color, although he was otherwise qualified under Alabama law, Patterson says he is bringing the suit in his behalf and in the behalf of all the Negroes in that state who are wrongfully prohibited from registering.

SEP 11 1942

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.



THIS MORNING

by JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES, II

Another constitutional convention worth remembering will be remembered in Montgomery Thursday when the 25 survivors of the original 155 members of Alabama's 1901 constitutional convention gather in sixth annual reunion. John W. O'Neil, of Birmingham, permanent chairman, does his state and its history a service with the loving care he puts into making these reunions a success. It would be interesting to know how the 25 feel about the poll tax. At the time of the convention, Alabama's great liberal, Joseph Forney Johnston, spoke bitterly of "the bribe which it offered to every man to stay away from the polls." But we doubt if he would have wanted the federal government to interfere.

The 25 survivors, in addition to Mr. O'Neil, are Frank N. Julian, of Montgomery; Mike Sul-Fort Payne; G. H. Carnathan, Fayette, and E. P. Wilson, St. Elie, Ozark; Erle Pettus, Sr., Bir-Butler; William F. Fitts, Sr., Tuscaloosa; L. W. Locklin, Monroeminghan; A. H. Carmichael, Tus-caloosa; L. W. Locklin, Monroecumbia; H. F. Reese, Selma; ville; W. T. Lowe, Decatur; Milo John Heflin, Roanoke; L. H. Moody, Scottsboro; E. A. Phil-Reynolds, Clanton; O. R. Hood, lips, Ashland; W. H. Tayloe, Un-Gadsden; W. C. Mulkey, Geneva; iontown; J. O. Sentell, Luverne; J. Thomas Heflin, Lafayette; N. J. B. Sloan, Oneonta; W. M. R. Leigh, Jr., Mobile; Massey Vaughn, Selma; S. L. Studdard, Wilson, Oak Hill; John H. Davis

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Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Att'y Seeks Seat In Ala. 'House'

MAR 1 - 1942

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(SNS)—Attorney Arthur D. Shores last week filed application with Honorable Gessner T. McCovery, chairman of the State Democratic Committee, declaring himself a candidate for the Alabama House of Representatives from Jefferson County.

His application with the qualifying fee declared he was a qualified elector and sought nomination in the May 5 Democratic primary and election in the June 2 balloting.

Attorney Shores is head of the Negro Democratic Council and recently became an elected on the legal staff of the National Association for the Advancement of colored People.

Liberal daily newspapers in the state have declared that it would be an honor to have a Negro member of the state legislature.

Seeks State Post

MAR 1 - 1942



ARTHUR D. SHORES

Atlanta Ga. Journal
February 28, 1942

BIRMINGHAM NEGRO IN ASSEMBLY RACE

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Feb. 28.—(AP)—Arthur D. Shores, Birmingham Negro attorney, filed Friday as a candidate for the State Legislature from Jefferson County in the Democratic primary May 5.

Mobile Ala. Register
March 1, 1942

Negro Plans Race As 'Independent'

Arthur Shores To Seek Place In Alabama Legislature In General Election

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Feb. 28. — Arthur D. Shores, Birmingham negro, will seek a place in the Alabama Legislature on an independent ticket.

Shores, an attorney, had sought to enter the state Democratic primary, May 5, in an attempt to gain a seat in the state house as a representative from Jefferson County.

However, his qualification was refused by both Secretary of State John Brandon and Gessener T. McCorvey, state Democratic committee chairman, when it was discovered Shores was a negro.

Both Brandon and McCorvey stated that they refused Shores entrance into a primary in compliance with a rule adopted by the state Democratic committee which states that only "qualified white electors" may run in the primary.

Asked what action he intended to take, Shores stated:

"The action of the Democratic party in turning down my application to run for the Legislature was a violation of the federal constitution. My action will be to run as an independent and not to test out the law, which is already being done in South Carolina."

Selma Ala. Times Journal
March 1, 1942

Committee Refuses To Approve Negro As House Candidate

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Feb. 28—(AP)—The State Democratic Executive Committee declined today to certify Arthur D. Shores, Birmingham negro attorney, as a candidate for the Alabama House of Representatives in the party's May 5 primary.

A former school teacher, Shores declared after learning of the action that he would run in the general election as an independent candidate.

He filed his declaration of candidacy yesterday with the Probate Judge here, Secretary of State John Brandon and Committee Chairman Gessner T. McCorvey of Mobile.

McCorvey, who said Shores would not be certified, declared he was returning his entry fee and declaration of candidacy.

Brandon, who likewise asserted he would return the declaration, pointed out that a resolution adopted by the State Democratic Committee Jan. 9 required among other things that candidates must be "qualified white electors." He said he was enclosing a copy of the measure.

Democratic primaries in Alabama usually are confined to white candidates an dare regulated by the State Committee. The committee submits the official list of qualifiers before primary ballots are printed.

Shores has practiced law in Birmingham for five years. He said he voted the democratic ticket in the 1940 general election.

Nashville Tenn. Banner
February 28, 1942

Negro Seeks Seat In Alabama House

Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 28—(AP)—For the first time since Reconstruction days following the Civil War, a Negro candidate has announced for the Alabama Legislature.

Arthur D. Shores, the only Negro member of the Birmingham bar, said today he had formally qualified as a candidate for the State Legislature from Jefferson County in the Democratic primary May 5.

State Chairman Gessner McCorvey of Mobile said today that Shores' qualification would be carried before the State Democratic Committee. In a statement mailed to committeemen in January, however, McCorvey said that if a move to invalidate the "white supremacy" rule should succeed before the United States Supreme Court, unofficial Democratic primaries with the rule still prevailing would be held.

The State primary law requires each candidate entering a Democratic primary to sign an affidavit as part of his entry declaration that he is qualified under the rules governing Democratic primaries.

Montgomery Ala. Advertiser
February 28, 1942

Negro Declares His Candidacy For Legislature

Lawyer At Birmingham Mails Qualification To McCorvey At Mobile

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Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Alabama Forgets Scottsboro

MAR 1 1 1942

A few days ago you read what Tallulah Bankhead, famed motion picture actress and daughter of the late Alabama United States senator, had to say about Joe Louis, great fighter . . . greater American. Said Miss Bankhead: "I rank Louis next to President Roosevelt among the greatest men of the United States. I'll never forget the fight with Conn. He was losing on points. He KNEW he was losing. He had to knock Conn out to win. It looked bad. There were only two rounds to go. I sat there chilled, suffering for him. Then Billy Conn's foot slipped. Joe could have stepped in and finished him. But he saw Billy had slipped and he stepped back, and gave Billy time to recover. It was a magnificent thing. No trainer could have taught him that. What he did was inside him!"

MAR 1 1 1942

Is not that a great tribute from an [illegible] daughter of Alabama? A few days after you read those fine lines of tribute, you read where a colored attorney of Alabama, Arthur D. Shores, had filed application with the chairman of the State Democratic Committee, declaring himself a candidate for the Alabama House of Representatives from Jefferson County. What did the white Alabama daily newspapers have to say? The liberal white dailies said: "It will be an honor to have a Negro member of the state legislature." You know something about the ways of man, but the ways of God passeth all understanding.

MAR 1 1 1942

All is NEVER lost. No man knows what a day will bring. You are going to make several steps towards full fellowship into the human family before many seasons pass. With the civilized world locked in a struggle to the death, you are going to make strides in the right direction you would never have made in times of peace. Louis, as you know, saw the light of day in the state of Alabama; so did Miss Bankhead. Likewise Judge Shores. Three champions, one white, two brown, all three Americans and stars of brilliant magnitude. The Master said, "love your enemies." He also said: "Think not that I am come to bring peace to earth; I came not to bring peace, but a sword." Negroes are children of the SWORD!

MAR 1 1 1942

—From The Galveston (Texas) Voice.

Gadsden, Ala., Times
March 3, 1942.

Negro Political Aspirant Hit

Office Seeker Is Branded As Enemy To Race Progress

Sam Bradford, chairman of the Citizens' Improvement League, a colored organization, today branded as "a worst enemy to the advancement of the Negro race in its struggle for political advancement" action of a Negro seeking to qualify as a candidate for a political office in Alabama.

The league chairman apparently had reference to H. J. Sullivan, insurance agent and editor of a Negro newspaper who last week-end was refused permission to qualify as a candidate for a place on the county Democratic executive committee.

'Publicity Motive'

Declaring the Citizens' Improvement League does not approve or advocate such action taken by a "self-appointed criterion," Bradford said "his motive could only be for publicity or to impress Negroes in other sections of the country that he is a lone martyr for the Negroes in his locality."

After being refused permission to file his candidacy for the committee post, Sullivan intimated he might make a test case of the question.

Chairman Eddie Miller of the Etowah committee refused his entry with the explanation the call for the Democratic primary is a white primary and that only qualified white electors may participate.

Birmingham, Ala. News
February 28, 1942

Democratic Primary Doors Are Closed To Negro Candidate

Fee Of Arthur Shores, Birmingham Lawyer, Returned By McCorvey

An attempt to open Alabama's heretofore exclusively white Democratic primaries to Negro candidates had failed in the outset Saturday when the State Democratic Executive Committee chairman rejected the certificate of candidacy and fee filed by a Birmingham Negro attorney.

Arthur D. Shores, Negro lawyer, who has practiced in Birmingham five years and who said he had voted the Democratic ticket in the 1940 general election, sought to qualify as candidate for the Legislature and had sent the party committee chairman a certificate of candidacy, together with the required $25 qualifying fee, to run in the May 5 primary.

Gessner T. McCorvey, Mobile attorney and state committee chairman, told The News over long distance telephone he had not certified Shores' name to Secretary of State John Brandon's office, as is the usual procedure, and that he was returning the Negro's fee and certificate of candidacy because it "was not in form."

"I have not certified Shores' name to the secretary of state's office and will not certify him as a candidate in our white Democratic primaries," declared McCorvey. "I am, therefore, returing the certificate of candidacy and fee he sent me."

McCorvey said the affidavit form sworn to by Shores in filing for the House of Representatives had the word "white" marked through in that section of the certificate which reads: "I further certify that I am a qualified white elector of the State of Alabama and possess the qualifications fixed by law for the office for which I am a candidate."

At the same time, the state committee chairman disclosed that an attempt had been made recently to qualify a Negro candidate for member of the Etowah County Democratic Executive Committee, but that Ed Miller, Etowah committee head, had likewise rejected the Negro's certificate of candidacy and fee.

McCorvey anticipated attempts by certain groups to open the primaries to Negroes several months ago when he wrote a letter to all committee members on the subject. The chairman alluded to recent high court decisions, which had been construed as opening the primaries to Negro participation, and suggested that if any primary were ever invalidated under such interpretation, the committee, which is all-powerful in purely party matters, could meet and ratify choice of the voters.

As a matter of fact, the committee has the power to name all Democratic nominees without a primary, it was pointed ut.

At Montgomery, Secretary of State John Brandon announced he would return Shores' declaration, enclosing a copy of a resolution adopted by the state committee here Jan. 9 fixing qualifications of candidates. The resolution requires among other things that candidates must be "qualfied white electors."

The secretary of state pointed out that, under the law, he places on primary ballots the names of those certified to him by the state committee chairman as having paid their fees and made "proper qualifications."

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Proud of Law Breaking

MAR 20 1942

The story of the refusal of the Alabama authorties to permit a Negro to enter the primaries as a candidate for Congress, though he had complied with all the requirements, relates that the state Democratic committee and the secretary of state declined his papers on the ground that he was "not a white man." Race equality required by the Constitution is ignored completely. No attempt at justification! It is race superiority rampant! Custom long unrebuked, now puts on a show, expecting to be applauded.

MAR 20 1942

No person in his right mind expected this Negro candidate to be elected. His application if accepted, would not have endangered whites' chances. Alabama spoke out in order to let the world know its sentiments are thoroughly undemocratic where Negroes are concerned. The prayer "Forgive them because they know not what they do" fits this situation. This is proof that in spite of our being in a war to defend freedom and democracy, some of us are not because of our beliefs.

MAR 20 1942

52a-1942

Kingsport-Decatur, Ala Daily
February 10, 1942



Knight Is Not to Run; Buster Lawson Candidate

Attorney General Thomas A. Lawson, (above), today announced in Montgomery that he will be a candidate for associate justice of the Alabama supreme court, seeking this recognition after 11 years service in his present department.

Mr. Lawson's announcement was not made until he had received personal word from his friend, Justice Thomas E. Knight, the incumbent, who has long been disabled by illness, that he would not seek another term.

Mr. Lawson was the third candidate to announce for the post. Circuit Judge Lamar Field, of Anniston, and J. Miller Bonner, legal adviser to Governor Dixon and former Wilcox county senator, already having entered the contest.

Only 36, and one of the youngest men ever elected attorney general, Mr. Lawson served as an assistant attorney general eight years. He is a son of L. J. Lawson, of Greensboro, and is a grandson of former Governor Seay.

He was appointed an assistant attorney general by the late Thomas E. Knight Jr., in 1931 and reappointed by Albert A. Carmichmael in 1935. His record as assistant won such wide acclaim that he was given the unusual distinction of being elected attorney general without opposition in 1938.

During his administration he has been called upon to represent the state in much important litigation before the United States supreme court.

A notable victory he achieved was in the case where he contended that contractors doing work for the government on a cost-plus basis were liable for sales tax on materials, just as any other purchasers. The United States supreme court upheld his contention in decision several months ago and Alabama as a result will collect several hundred thousand dollars in taxes that would otherwise have escaped, part of which has already been collected.

When the South's racial segregation laws were threatened in an Arkansas case brought by a Negro congressman from Illinois, Attorney General Lawson took the lead in bringing about concerted action from the South. Other Southern states deemed the matter of such importance that nearly all of them sent representatives to a conference called by him in Montgomery and united in filing a joint brief with the United States supreme court, with the result that the South's traditional laws for separation of white and colored races remained undisturbed.

Both as attorney general and as assistant Mr. Lawson has vigorously prosecuted all officials duly charged with impeachable conduct and has made a remarkable record in such cases. As assistant attorney general he figured prominently in successful prosecution of the notorious Scottsboro cases.

Mr. Lawson is a native of Hale county and a member of the Montgomery County Bar Association.

Mobile Ala. Register
February 28, 1942

Negro Attorney Seeks To Enter Alabama Primary

But Chairman McCorvey Returns Remittance To Legislative Aspirant

Gessner T. McCorvey of Mobile, chairman of the state Democratic executive committee, said last night he had declined to accept a declaration of candidacy in the May Democratic primary from Arthur Shores, Birmingham negro attorney, who seeks nomination to the state House of Representatives.

The committee chairman said his action in declining to certify Shores was in compliance with a resolution calling the primaries, which provides that only "qualified white electors" are eligible to become candidates in the primary.

McCorvey explained that when he received Shores' papers of declaration, a red-ink blur covered the word "white," and that not noticing that the would-be candidate was not a white man, he wrote the Birmingham lawyer a letter of acceptance. Later in the day, however, he discovered his error, and immediately returned to Shores his declaration papers and his remittance fee.

Shores will not be certified to Secretary of State John Brandon when primary candidates are certified, McCorvey declared.

The negro attorney filed qualifying papers with the secretary of state in Montgomery and the Jefferson County probate judge.

ALABAMA

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Alabama Negro Files for Seat In Legislature

MAR 2 - 1942

First Negro to Seek State Democratic Designation Since Civil War

(Special to the Daily Worker)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., March 1.—Arthur D. Shores, prominent young Negro attorney yesterday filed papers entering Democratic Primary as candidate for Legislature from Jefferson County.

MAR 2 - 1942

Local newspapers noted that this was the first time that a Negro sought to enter Democratic primaries in Alabama since reconstruction when Negroes held a number of seats in both House and Senate.

MAR 2 - 1942

Mr. Shores was urged to make the race by many white progressives as well as Negro citizens. A member of the Negro Democratic Club, Mr. Shores had consistently voted in Democratic primaries and supported the Democratic National Ticket.

MAR 2 - 19

However, it was apparent that officials of State Democratic Committe will attemp to bar Shores from primary by invoking the notorious white primary rule, even though they admit the rule unconstitutional.

Mr. Shores was born in this county 36 years ago. He was educated in Birmingham schools, Talladega College and studied law at the University of Kansas. He was admitted to the bar in Birmingham in 1937.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

BIBB GRAVES AND ALABAMA

Bibb Graves loved Alabama as have few men in his time; in turn Alabama loved him in as full a measure.

MAR 1 5 1942

The feeling which he had for his native State was based upon intimate knowledge of its every corner — not geographically alone—but also of its people, their needs, their hopes, their potentialities.

Knowing Alabama and loving Alabama as he did, his consuming desire throughout his career had been to have a share in leading this State to that place in the sun which heritage and resources entitled it.

MAR 1 1942

There are those who have been nettled and dismayed by the ties which bound Bibb Graves and Alabama one to the other. Had they understood fully either the man or the State they would not have been confused.

He was as much a part of this State as pine trees on a hill-top, as much a part of it as farmers turning land in the Spring, or boys going bare-footed in the Summer sun, or fish biting in the shade of a willow, or the blasts of furnaces in an industrial region, grown great with turning out goods, or as much a part of us, smiling and saying "Howdy" to passers-by on the street.

Those who had occasion to visit Col. Graves' office during the years he was governor will recall that during the "graduation season" he was accustomed to sign stacks of diplomas while carrying on a conversation. Signing the diplomas of hundreds of graduates from State colleges was no small task. It was the kind of routine job which could have been passed on to a machine or an authorized subordinate. It was certainly not efficient.

MAR 1 5 1942

But the act of signing a diploma with his own hand had meaning to Bibb Graves. It was the official stamp of approval of the State of Alabama on the record of a boy or girl whose preparation for life had been made possible by this commonwealth. Bibb Graves' heart, and his respect for the office he held required that he do the job personally—and it gave him a thrill to have the opportunity to do it.

MAR 1 5 1942

In recalling what might appear to be an incident of no great import at such a time, The Advertiser is not unmindful of the catalogue of Bibb Graves' major contributions to the building of Alabama. The larger record of his service is well-known, his labors in behalf of human welfare, his interest in the dispossessed, his championship of education, his part in developing Alabama's economic resources. Well-known, too, is the fact that often his energies were devoted to those who had no voice, the convicts in the mines, the mentally ill, the sick: Not so well-known is the fact that Negro schools and Negro colleges, whose patrons had no political power, looked to him also.

It is not surprising that the thoughts of those who knew him well turned first to "Miss Dixie," for of all his legion of friends she was the greatest. She was not only his wife, but companion and trusted counsellor as well. Through ups and downs, through victories and defeats the two had gone through life arm in arm.

The capacity for friendships and for inspiring loyalty as well as giving it was part and parcel of Bibb Graves, the human being. This characteristic of the man is a part of the record of his stand on public issues.

MAR 1 5 1942

Bibb Graves is dead but the principles which gave his statesmanship life and meaning are imperishable. They may be set aside. They may be nullified for a season, but they are a living, vital force and will not forever be denied expression. These principles have found a response in the hearts and minds of thousands of Alabamians. They transcend the lines of party and faction. There is a universal quality in them that commands their acceptance by all men of good purpose.

How well these principles accommodated themselves to the spirit and genius of Alabama has been made apparent on two oc-

casions when the people of this State have gone to the polls and chosen Bibb Graves as their implementing force. It was apparent a few hours ago when Bibb Graves, still alive, was an overwhelming choice for a third term as Governor of this great State. It remains apparent still.

A way of thought common to a quarter of a million men and women does not change; does not vanish into nothingness when its chief exemplar dies. Rather, it remains a monument to his fine spirit, a heritage to those who saw with him, eye to eye.

It would be disheartening if it had to be said, now that Bibb Graves is dead, all that he stood for and fought for must die with him. It does not have to be said. Those who followed in the Bibb Graves way are not yet ready to surrender the lines built up behind him. They are unwilling yet to defer to forces of reaction or political self-seeking. If there is a way they will find it and they are not yet convinced there is not a way.

MAR 1 6 1942

Col. Richard T. Rives expresses much of this in a statement wrung from him at a time when he would have preferred to be left alone with his grief for a dead friend. In it he says to the followers of Bibb Graves:

MAR 1942

"Stand firm. Do not be stampeded in your dismay. Your will is the will of the majority of the people of Alabama and in a democracy the will of so great a majority may not lightly be thwarted."

This is a time of sorrow. It is not a time to explore the avenues open to a majority which suddenly finds itself at a disadvantage. If Col. Rives, in the high integrity with which his name has always been allied, can find a way, there will come to him this cry from a grateful people, "Keep on keeping on."

Shore's Candidacy Rejected

MAR 20 1942

Alabama's much-nationalized name got back into the front pages of Negro newspapers all over the country when the laws of the Democratic Party in Alabama made it necessary to reject the application of Attorney Arthur D. Shores to run for the Alabama House of Representatives from Jefferson County in the "Democratic Primaries."

In filing his application, Mr. Shores ran red ink through those restrictive words and specifically indicated his non-witness. All this was first overlooked by the chairman of the executive committee of the Alabama Democratic Committee. When the none-too-careful chairman learned about Applicant Shores being a Negro, he sat down and wrote him another letter in which both the entry fee and the "white only" were returned.

Birmingham World

Under their laws, backed by a January resolution, Mr. Shores was not eligible for nomination and election on the "Democratic" ticket.

Birmingham, Ala.

It is easy to question the laws upon which Mr. Shores was rejected, for they are in as much contradiction to genuine American law and ways as are the edicts of the Nazi Party. Yet, we, in that view, know that in Alabama our law, which can be changed to meet our own decent American political concepts, should never be compared with Nazi ruleship.

In time, we hope, that in Alabama we shall soon advance to the point where a better law will operate than that which, presently virtually limits public office to non-Negro candidates.

We are optimistic enough to believe that over the past ten years in Alabama a small amount of improvement has been made. Evidence of that is the spirit in which the would-be candidacy of Lawyer Shores has been generally received. Neither furore nor bitter feelings have resulted. And none will, if Jefferson County and Alabama are as high and decent as we place both in our estimations.

In our opinion, Mr. Shores should run for the Legislature. He could with legal justification, in our opinion, contend for his name being placed on the Democratic ballot. The Democratic Party uses both public funds and public property in conducting its activities and therefore is legal liable, we think, to opening up to all citizens without unlawful discriminations.

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He could, it seems, run as an independent without incurring much, if any, ill will and indecent opposition. Yet, he would likely suffer insurmountable handicaps in doing this, in our thinking.

As a gesture of goodwill and good democracy, the Alabama Democratic Party, might remove its racial restrictions to allow Would-Be Candidate Shores to run on the Democratic tickets. This would be an imperishable contribution to democracy and a deadly blow to Axis propaganda at a time when total American cooperation is necessary.

A projected discussion of the candidacy opens a new area of thought. A Negro could be extremely helpful at this time in the Alabama Legislature. None know the Negro problems as does the Negro. Being a large part, nearly forty percent of the state population, the Negro is entitled, on that ground alone, to some one in government fundamentally and specifically interested in his welfare.

Paradoxical as are the ways of the South there is a possibility of anything happening. If there is to be a paradox at this time, let it be one that will stun the Axis rather than shame America. Let it be one that will weld us more firmly into a united people..... a people indivisible by racial discrimination. Let us in Alabama lead in democracy as we do in the alphabetical classification of the State. Let Alabama stand for all that is glorious in America.

MAR 2 1942

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

NO SUCCESS MADE IN GETTING RIGHT TO VOTE IN 'BAMA

AUG 24 1942

Leaders Have Been Battling for 10 Years, But Goal Is Still Far Away

By Emory O. Jackson

BIRMINGHAM, July 23 (ANP)—A review of the 10-year "planned" fight for the ballot in Birmingham reveals that every device used to increase Negro suffrage has been restrictive in nature and results.

Nearly every organization of any strength since 1932 has tried one plan or another to make it so Negro citizens could register to vote the same as any other person with basically the same qualifications. Those plans that have worked could not achieve the hope because of inherit limitations in all of them.

Six of those plans have been (1) the quota system; (2) prune off plan; (3) the get-white-man-to-vouch-for-you-strategy; (4) trickling; (5) going-back-and-going-back; (6) and court action.

The "quota system" is a plan by which only a certain number of applicants will be registered to vote no matter how many with qualifications apply for their vote certificates. This has been a yardstick used by every board of registrars that has held that position in the past 12 years.

Once registered in Alabama, and after one has paid his poll tax for 25 years, his name automatically remains on the vote list unless he is reported dead, or orders it transferred. Knowing this, an extra-official proposition was suggested that for every Negro's named pruned from the list another's would be placed on. That plan made no headway.

The "vouch plan" is where one would get an influential white person to o.k. him and whisper a few kind words in his behalf to some one who stood in with the board, or members of the board itself.

"Trickling" is somewhat of a sneak system by which applicants would quietly go one by one and according to a schedule. This came about when some organization had advocated a mass rush on the office of registration.

Some have felt that it was best to go back and go back until the board was worried down. Net effect of this was that a young man, say 21, going to the board would be refused registration five times. By now his poll tax would have accumulated to $4.50 or more. Price of voting now was so costly as to discourage him. Yet some paid as high as $37.50, which is the lifetime poll tax.

More recently the NAACP has sought to break down all vote barriers through court action. The plan has succeeded in getting but few qualified to vote, and at prohibitive costs.

The Birmingham branch of the NAACP under J. J. Green has mapped out a three point vote campaign in which it will solicit the support of the total Negro leadership in Birmingham. They plan to center a fight for the battle, first in conference; secondly through an appeal to public opinion and thirdly through legal action in the state and in the federal court.

Few Negroes Cast Ballots In Arkansas

"The Courier Journal"

Attempt to Take Part In Primary Is Failure

Louisville, Ky.

Little Rock, Ark., July 28 (AP)—Apparently preparing for some sort of legal test, a few Negroes tried and, except one community, failed to vote in today's statewide Democratic preferential primary.

Election officials at Little Rock, Pine Bluff and Conway turned away would-be Negro voters, explaining that the election was for white people only. The state's party rules restrict membership to "qualified white electors."

Negroes Vote In One Town.

At Camden, in South Arkansas, however, a few Negroes described as long-time residents of the community who had been permitted to participate in primary elections for many years, voted as usual.

Dr. J. M. Robinson, president of the Arkansas Negro Democratic Association, which sponsored the organized voting efforts of Negroes, said a complete report on the day's developments would be forwarded to Thurgoof Marshall of New York City, special counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, who already has been in conference with Department of Justice officials regarding the issue.

The turnout among the normal voting populace was extremely light.

At stake were nominations for U. S. senator, two congressmen, governor, land commissioner and a supreme court justice.

Four Seek Senate Seat.

Candidates for the Senate were Congressman Dave Terry, Little Rock; Congressman Clyde Ellis, Bentonville; former Congressman John L. McClellan, Camden, and Attorney General Jack Holt, Harrison.

Seeking Terry's seat in the Fifth (Central) District were Lieut. Gov. Bob Bailey and former Farm Security Administration Attorney Brooks Hays, both of Russellville; A. L. Rotenberry, and Oscar Winn, both Little Rock attorneys. Ellis' Third (Northwest) District post was sought by Supreme Court Justice Karl Greenhaw and former University of Arkansas President J. W. Fulbright, both of Fayetteville, and Attorney Virgil Willis, Harrison.

Gov. Homer M. Adkins was opposed for renomination by Dr. Fred Keller, Conway educator; Bill Neill, Little Rock salesman; and Vernor Heath, Little Rock real estate dealer.

Globe and Independen
Nashville, Tenn.

COLORED VOTERS MAKE TEST CASE IN LITTLE ROCK

Many Attempt to Cast Ballots In Primary But Are Denied Right

Barred at Polls, Action is Reported to U. S. Justice Department

LITTLE ROCK, Aug. 6 (ANP)—At the last Tuesday's State Democratic preferential primary, Negro voters were refused ballots by election officials at Little Rock, Pine Bluff and Conway, thus paving the way for a test case which may ultimately remove the bar against colored electors of the state.

Elections officials of the cities mentioned explained that the election was for white electors only, that the state's party rules restrict membership to "qualified white electors.'

In furtherance of the plan for a legal test, Dr. J. M. Robinson, president of the Arkansas Negro Democratic association, said a full report would be sent to Thurgood Marshall of New York City, attorney for the NAACP.

Dr. Robinson had advised the voters to seek a ballot, that if it were refused, "to bow politely and leave without ado." He also said that Att. Marshall already had been in conference with department of justice officials.

The first reported test came in Little Rock, when J. H. McConico, 58-year-old secretary of that city's NAACP Branch, was stopped at the door of the polling place by a baliff who said: "This election is for white electors only." McConico walked away without argument. He said later that his vote in Arkansas primaries had not been challenged since 1926. Before that, he explained, he had voted the Republican ticket.

Th NAACP said it was relying on a 1941 Supreme court decision, holding that primary elections and nominating conventions are subject to Federal regulation insofar as they apply to candidates for federal offices. The association claims the decision supersedes a 1930 court ruling that the Arkansas Democratic party has the same right to restrict its membership as fraternities and similar organizations.

Huntsville, Ala., Times
September 13, 1942

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Sept. 12 (AP)—Dr. J. M. Robinson, president of the Arkansas Negro Democratic Association, said today he doubted any attempt would be made in Arkansas, one of the nation's poll tax states, to write-in opposition candidates to the regular party nominees at the November general election.

*S-2a

Edgar G. Brown director of the National Negro Council, announced at Chicago yesterday that a negro pastor proposed as a congressional candidate in Mississippi was "the first of 120 candidates we intend to enter in as many congressional districts in the poll tax states."

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Vote Against Somebody

FEB 4 - 1942

Several weeks ago the press carried an item of news which was "suggestive" and interesting despite the fact it was crowded to the back pages to make way for items about the war.

FEB 4 - 1942

That item dealt with a special election for congress, held in a Colorado district. In that district, which had been Democratic for thirty years continuously, a Republican was elected over his Democratic opponent.

The past week, an election was held in the Connecticut district, which also has been represented by a Democrat for a long time. Again a Republican was elected over his Democratic opponent.

We do not know what were the issues involved in these two races nor anything about the personalities of the opposing candidates. But we feel safe to say that conditions in both districts, showing that the people want some changes made in Washington, will be shown to exist throughout the nation.

FEB 4 - 1942

Our war and defense efforts have necessarily created much dissatisfaction throughout the country. This is especially true with regard to the heavy tax burden the present Congress has put upon the people, in which there has been a complete abandonment of the theory that taxes should be levied upon those "most able to pay." Taxes are now levied upon everybody, and in many cases persons are going to pay a situation where they actually will not have money to pay these taxes and must of necessity go in debt to get the tax money.

FEB 4 - 1942

It is only natural that these persons feel that Congressmen and Senators who have become faithless to the masses of the people ought to be retired from office. These persons, who under the rules will not be allowed to voice their feelings toward the war, are likely to express them in ballots.

FEB 4 - 1942

We hazard the opinion that a majority of Americans who go to the polls this year will be inspired to vote AGAINST somebody. It looks like there are dark days ahead for all politicians in power.—Nashville Globe.

52a-1942
Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

COMMUNISTS

ONE WORD MORE

By RALPH McGILL.

MR. BROWDER'S PARDON NEW YORK CITY—(By Mail.) It was Saturday afternoon and I was trudging along Madison avenue when I saw a Daily News headline saying Browder had been pardoned.

I bought two papers and read the Associated Press dispatch and grinned briefly, knowing the boys on The Constitution staff had ants in their pants and were working on the story.



I was counting the figurative "ten" all the while, because my first impulse had been to swear loudly and angrily in protest against something already done.

So, I read the story and walked along thinking it out. It was plausible, and probably correct, that Browder had gotten a longer sentence than the average person would have received.

Yet, this was the most understandable feature of his conviction for the use of a fraudulent passport. He and his crowd had been making irritants of themselves for years. They were never very smart and never tactful and they were enemies of this country and its government.

The wonder is the judge didn't throw the book at Browder. That he gave him a moderate sort of sentence, only a little above the average, was an indication of the fact he had very good control of his emotions and tried to give him a fair deal.

My idea was, and is, that he richly deserved what he got, and I at last reached the calm decision I was sorry he was pardoned and that it was a mistake to do it.

NOT ONE OF JOE'S BOYS From all I know, and can hear, Browder never was one of Fighting Joe Stalin's boys, anyhow. The record shows that he and Ford, the Negro Communist, attended one or two state affairs in Moscow and were fed at the third table and housed in one of the basement rooms. They merely were tolerated.

They were not seriously regarded, and Stalin, who had got at least some distance away from Lenin's idea of world revolution, didn't take them into the family. They enjoyed a sort of illegitimate standing at the reunions.

This was substantiated by the fact that Comrade Browder himself didn't know anything about the German-Russian alliance when it came. He and the Daily Worker had to wait for three days before they could find out how to trim their sails.

They then went to work to point out that the United States was a corrupt nation and a barbarous one and that Russia and Germany would show the world how to keep a peace and a gentleman's agreement. They said it was all in the interest of peace, and that a blood-sucking nation such as the United States wouldn't recognize an obvious fact.

When Hitler started the drive against Russia, they again had to wait for information, but blandly started in, once they got it, saying what beasts the Germans were and how the United States and Russia would win the war against the beasts.

Until that date there was concrete evidence from many quarters that the Communists in this and other countries, had been aiding Germany all they could against England and the United States. That ended, naturally, when the attack was made against Russia.

So, it was no surprise to me that the jury, when it got to Browder in that period when he and his crowd were cheering the Germans, got what he did. I think he deserved it.

COMRADE BROWDER I always have regarded Browder as a superior sort of punk. I've read his editorials and his book. His book was devoted to proving that Russia and Germany were implacable foes and could never become allies. (This appeared about two weeks before they did become allies, which again was proof that Fighting Joe Stalin and the Kremlin also believed Comrade Browder to be a punk and was not to be taken seriously.)

I'd be willing to wager that Litvinoff, the Russian ambassador, didn't ask, or care, about Browder. I'd be willing to bet that a lot of our sentimentalists got together and started in lushing about Comrade Browder and how he ought to be freed because the Russians were putting up such a gallant fight. Well, none of the Russians are dying for Comrade Browder or care a damn about him. And, anyhow, it was a mistake to let him out. It makes a big man out of a punk and gives him prestige he never had. It makes him a hero to all the mob that followed him and hated this country as long as Germany and Russia were together.

The point is, Browder isn't a Russian, and the second point is the Russians were satisfied to leave him in the clink and, indeed, probably were glad to have him there.

I genuinely, and without reservation, like and admire the Russian people. I like the way they write books and I like the way they produce dancers and singers and musicians. And I surely like the way they fight.

But I don't have to accept their politics any more than I have to accept the politics of the Republican party.

And, the point to keep in mind, is that there was no connection between Comrade Browder and the Russian fighters, anyhow. It must have been one of those lush, sentimental moves, and I, for one, am sorry the President listened to the mushy sentimentalists who wept Browder out of jail because the Russians were making one of the most gallant fights in history. Browder was an American who sold out his own country and who would sell it out again if he changes his mind. In my book he is entirely lacking in character and any intellectual honesty and was, and is, a first-rate, no-good, wind-filled phony.

I'm talking about Browder, and not about Russia. The two have no real connection, as Fighting Joe Stalin showed years ago when he put Browder and Ford in their places. That place was at the end of the line.

Guardian
Boston, Mass.

EARL BROWDER FREED

In releasing Earl Browder President Roosevelt again exhibits the two most outstanding qualities of his leadership, courage and statesmanship. Nobody can charge him with having been weak-kneed at any time during his entire public career, even when he was summoned to decide in matters involving members of his own political party where action according to duty might endanger his political life. The sentence of Mr. Browder was commuted to the fourteen months already served of the four-year term which was imposed upon him for obtaining a passport by false statements. The White House said:

"The President believes that the principle of obedience to law has been sufficiently vindicated by the punishment already suffered by Browder and that the commutation of his sentence which brings about his release at this time, just shortly before he will become eligible for parole, will have a tendency to promote national unity and allay any feeling which may exist in some minds that the unusually long sentence in Browder's case was by way of penalty imposed upon him becaue of his political views."

The President does not hesitate to refer to Earl Browder's sentence as "unusually long," and millions of other Americans have felt the same way about it. The truth is that public reaction to the unusual penalty had become so pronounced and widespread as seriously to disrupt national unity. The release of Mr. Browder is not to be construed as a favor to him or to adherents of his political faith. The President clearly visualized that the freeing of Browder would have "a tendency to promote national unity." Now unity, about which we are hearing much these days, is not just a maudlin sentiment. Under a democratic form of government, in "piping times of peace," a united people is a strong people, irresistibly advancing to a fuller democracy. When the nation is under attack by a foreign foe, unity becomes a powerful weapon. The enemy knows that, and by every means possible he tries to weaken and destroy the unity of the people he seeks to conquer. Our far-sighted President has taken another precaution to circumvent the enemies of the Republic.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

A DEMOCRATIC GESTURE

Earl Browder, former general secretary of the Communist party has been released from the Atlanta penitentiary. We are not Communists but we believe that Browder's release—though coming rather late—will remove any suspicion that Soviet Russia might have as to the sincerity of our country in the struggle for human freedom. For, though the technical charge against him was "passport fraud," he was obviously sentenced because of his political beliefs.

In ordering that Browder be set free, President Roosevelt has once more demonstrated to the world his determination to render justice where it is due. Moreover, by this gesture, he is allowing the "rattlesnakes" who would strike at the people's rights, to expose themselves. He is indirectly rebuking the Peglers, the lynchers, the industrialists who would rather destroy democracy than accord equality to the Negro. In this category we can hardly refrain from placing a large section of the white press which never rose to fight the battles of the Scottsboro boys to rot in jail. Now that the President has freed Browder, we trust that he will not allow

52a-1942
Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

ONE WORD MORE

By RALPH McGILL.

MR. BROWDER'S PARDON NEW YORK CITY—(By Mail.) It was Saturday afternoon and I was trudging along Madison avenue when I saw a Daily News headline saying Browder had been pardoned.

I bought two papers and read the Associated Press dispatch and grinned briefly, knowing the boys on The Constitution staff had ants in their pants and were working on the story.



I was counting the figurative "ten" all the while, because my first impulse had been to swear loudly and angrily in protest against something already done.

So, I read the story and walked along thinking it out. It was plausible, and probably correct, that Browder had gotten a longer sentence than the average person would have received.

Yet, this was the most understandable feature of his conviction for the use of a fraudulent passport. He and his crowd had been making irritants of themselves for years. They were never very smart and never tactful and they were enemies of this country and its government.

The wonder is the judge didn't throw the book at Browder. That he gave him a moderate sort of sentence, only a little above the average, was an indication of the fact he had very good control of his emotions and tried to give him a fair deal.

My idea was, and is, that he richly deserved what he got, and I at last reached the calm decision I was sorry he was pardoned and that it was a mistake to do it.

NOT ONE OF JOE'S BOYS From all I know, and can hear, Browder never was one of Fighting Joe Stalin's boys, anyhow. The record shows that he and Ford, the Negro Communist, attended one or two state affairs in Moscow and were fed at the third table and housed in one of the basement rooms. They merely were tolerated.

They were not seriously regarded, and Stalin, who had got at least some distance away from Lenin's idea of world revolution, didn't take them into the family. They enjoyed a sort of illegitimate standing at the reunions.

This was substantiated by the fact that Comrade Browder himself didn't know anything about the German-Russian alliance when it came. He and the Daily Worker had to wait for three days before they could find out how to trim their sails.

They then went to work to point out that the United States was a corrupt nation and a barbarous one and that Russia and Germany would show the world how to keep a peace and a gentleman's agreement. They said it was all in the interest of peace, and that a blood-sucking nation such as the United States wouldn't recognize an obvious fact.

When Hitler started the drive against Russia, they again had to wait for information, but blandly started in, once they got it, saying what beasts the Germans were and how the United States and Russia would win the war against the beasts.

Until that date there was concrete evidence from many quarters that the Communists in this, and other countries, had been aiding Germany all they could against England and the United States. That ended, naturally, when the attack was made against Russia.

So, it was no surprise to me that the jury, when it got to Browder in that period when he and his crowd were cheering the Germans, got what he did. I think he deserved it.

COMRADE BROWDER I always have regarded Browder as a superior sort of punk. I've read his editorials and his book. His book was devoted to proving that Russia and Germany were implacable foes and could never become allies. (This appeared about two weeks before they did become allies, which again was proof that Fighting Joe Stalin and the Kremlin also believed Comrade Browder to be a punk and was not to be taken seriously.)

I'd be willing to wager that Litvinoff, the Russian ambassador, didn't ask, or care, about Browder. I'd be willing to bet that a lot of our sentimentalists got together and started in lushing about Comrade Browder and how he ought to be freed because the Russians were putting up such a gallant fight. Well, none of the Russians are dying for Comrade Browder or care a damn about him. And, anyhow, it was a mistake to let him out. It makes a big man out of a punk and gives him prestige he never had. It makes him a hero to all the mob that followed him and hated this country as long as Germany and Russia were together.

The point is, Browder isn't a Russian, and the second point is the Russians were satisfied to leave him in the clink and, indeed, probably were glad to have him there.

I genuinely, and without reservation, like and admire the Russian people. I like the way they write books and I like the way they produce dancers and singers and musicians. And I surely like the way they fight.

But I don't have to accept their politics any more than I have to accept the politics of the Republican party.

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Now that the President has freed Browder, we trust that he will not allow the Scottsboro boys to rot in jail.

New Masses
New York, N. Y.

It Strengthens National Unity

JUN 2 - 1942

JUBILANCE over the freedom of Earl Browder was as instantaneous as wireless would permit: dispatches from as far off as Mexico City, Buenos Aires, and London indicate that all anti-Axis peoples regard his release as a battle won against fascism. "His liberty," Lombardo Toledano, eminent Mexican leader, said, "will contribute importantly to the popular struggle against the Axis powers on the entire Western Hemisphere." That sums up the feeling of millions of Americans who understood the meaning of his imprisonment. The 500,000 members of the New York CIO saw it that way: so did private citizens like Theodore Dreiser and Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, the noted Negro educator who wired President Roosevelt that "I regard your release of Earl Browder as an act of farseeing statesmanship."

JUN 2 - 1942

Of course, there was the inevitable sourpuss reaction of a handful of sixth columnists such as Westbrook Pegler. Their response—judging from their record—was a foregone conclusion. The vehemence of these worthies attest to the truth: they cavil at anything that would strengthen the President's hand in the effort and they hastened to get in their dirty work. But they work against odds: history is moving contrary to them. The majority of America's newspapers—ranging from the Detroit *Free Press* to the *Daily Enquirer*, of Columbus, Ga.—and the mass of America's people hailed Mr. Roosevelt's statement that Browder's release would tend "to promote national unity."

JUN 2 1942

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Ben Davis, Jr. N. Y. Candidate

JUN 9 1942

Seeks Post As Attorney Gen'l

NEW YORK —(ANP)—Benjamin W. Davis, Jr., leading figure in the fight to free Angelo Herndon, noted Negro lawyer and member of the editorial board of the Daily Worker, is the Communist party candidate for attorney general of New York state, Simon W. Gerson, director of the state election committee, Communist party, announced this week.

JUN 9 - 1942

Mr. Davis, a former football star at Amherst and a graduate of Harvard Law School, is the son of Benjamin Davis, Sr., of Atlanta, a former member of the Republican National committee.

As attorney for Herndon, Mr. Davis carried the fight to free the young Negro leader to the Georgia Supreme court and finally fought it up to the United States Supreme court where the lower courts were reversed.

Birmingham Post
Birmingham, Alabama

Pegler

Law Against Spying On Labor Unions Should Be Repealed



By Westbrook Pegler

NEW YORK, June 16.—The law forbidding employers and others to spy on those political organizations known as labor unions, which have private taxing powers and their own private laws and courts, is a dangerous law and should be repealed.

There is no reason why these political groups, with their great powers and their over-all record of ruthless criminality and oppression, should be given the protection of a Federal law which attempts to preserve the dark secrecy that all conspirators and thieves prefer.

No other element in our whole nation enjoys such protection. Although there is no other element whose evil record so urgently demands that its conduct be carefully watched at all times in the public interest including, most imperatively, the interest of the workers.

* * *

Hidden Facts Are Revealed

I have not heard whether Sen. Robert M. La Follette intends to proceed against me for investigating union affairs, often with the assistance of men within the unions, but if he should call me before his left wing Dies Committee of the Senate, I would cheerfully say that I have had thousands of communications from union members revealing otherwise hidden facts of misconduct within the ruling group of unions.

And have I been guilty of spying in passing information to these public officials and even to employers so that the employers might protect their legitimate interests and the workers in their employ? Because, if so, let La Follette call the wagon, for I have done just that and intend to continue to do so.

* * *

JUN 16 1942

Reason Is Political

I have before me at this moment a copy of the Office and Professional News, the publication of the Office Clerks' Union of the CIO. This and the CIO communications union, composed of wire and wireless telegraph operators and teletype operators, are two of the most dangerous organizations in the country, from the standpoint of espionage. Between them they have access to correspondence, books and business secrets of the companies which employ their members and to great proportion of all the confidential wire and wireless messages, not only of companies and individuals, but of the Government as well.

Well, the office and professional news will give you an idea how red is the Office Workers' Union. This paper carries an advertisement for the Communist Party's official organ and a display story shouting up the demand of the party-line New York Newspaper Guild, that my copy be excluded from the Stars and Stripes. It also contains a ballyhood story for a recent Community Party line movie called Native Land and a cheer for the release of Earl Browder and a proposal that each member of the union be assessed one hour's pay per month for Russian war relief and for no other relief.

Does Senator La Follette or anyone else believe that such an organization would forbear to engage in espionage against the employers of office workers, having access to the employers confidential affairs?

There is no longer any doubt that the political party for which this union shows such a strong devotion is an anti-American conspiracy.

If you back off and take an objective look you must realize that the only reason why spying on unions is forbidden is a political reason, for Mr. Biddle, in another announcement a short while before his Bridges opinion, acknowledged that the unions with their vast treasuries and taxing powers are political agencies of the party in power.

JUN 16 1942

N. Y. County Communists Name Davis Chairman

AUG 25 1942

Daily Worker, New York

AUG 25 1942

Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., Communist candidate for Attorney-General of New York State, became the only Negro to head a county political organization in New York, with his election yesterday as Chairman of the New York County Committee of the Communist Party.

A graduate of Harvard Law School and of Amherst, where he played football, Mr. Davis, son of Benjamin J. Davis, Sr., a former Republican National Committeeman, has long been active in Negro work in Harlem. He was the unanimous choice of the county committee for the office.

As a lawyer in Georgia, his native state, Mr. Davis came into the national spotlight when he defended Angelo Herndon against violating an 1866 insurrection statute in Georgia. Herndon's conviction was reversed after it was fought up to the United States Supreme Court.

Before becoming chairman of the Communist Party's County organization, Mr. Davis served for more than five years on the editorial board of the Daily Worker.

He has been Executive Secretary of the N. Y. State Negro Commission of the Communist Party, and leader of the Party's upper Harlem organization.

AUG 25 1942

"In electing Mr. Davis to his new position," the County Committee announced, "we are not only paying tribute to Mr. Davis' abilities and energies, but we are demonstrating again that our Party carries its principles into action in regard to full equality for our brother Americans who are Negroes—a principle which must become a war aim."

At the same meeting, Mrs. Audley Moore, well-known in Negro organizations, was elected one of the leaders of the upper Harlem district of the Party.



BEN DAVIS, Jr.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Ben Davis Answers Editorial Next Week

4 - 1942

Last week The New York Age's leading editorial, "Communism and the Negro," provoked widespread comment, met with hearty approval in some quarters and equally as hearty disapproval in others.

5-26-1942

One of the most interesting comments on the editorial came from the trenchant pen of Ben Davis Jr., of the editorial staff of the Daily Worker. Because of the length of his comment, and because of the fact that Mr. Davis's viewpoint also reflects the Communist party's views on the subject, The New York Age will run the full reply in next week's issue.

52a-1942
New York Times
New York, N. Y.

OUSTED TEACHERS IN NEW FACULTY

JAN 12 1942

'School for Democracy' Lists Several Who Were Dropped by the City as Reds

SELSAM IS THE DIRECTOR

Schappes, Convicted as Perjurer, Has Two Courses—Copstein to Teach Poetry

JAN 12 1942

Teachers at City College and other city institutions who were dismissed, dropped or suspended as a result of the Rapp-Coudert committee investigation into Communist activities in the city schools, including one who was dismissed for indoctrination of students, are prominent on the faculty of the School for Democracy, 13 Astor Place, which announced its program yesterday.

According to the announcement, "the School for Democracy was born out of the fight to defend free education in New York against the attacks of the Rapp-Coudert Committee."

"The school rapidly drew to its faculty not alone those teachers who had learned the meaning of democracy in the struggle to defend it in the schools and colleges, but others who believed with them that the free school means free larning and teaching," the circular continued.

Poetry Course by Copstein

Seymour A. Copstein, tutor in English at City College and former teacher of "Principle of Communism" at the Communist Workers School, who was dismissed from the city college on charges that included the indoctrination of students, will give a course on "Poetry: What It Is and How to Read It," the program says.

Morris U. Schappes, another tutor in English who after having been suspended for Communist proseletizing was sentenced to eighteen months to two years in jial for perjury, a conviction he is appealing, is to give two courses. One is "Lectures in Literature." The other is "Studies in Four Poets: Milton, Shelley, Burns, Whitman."

JAN 12 1942

Louis Lerman, dismissed clerk, will conduct a "Workshop in Short Story Writing." Other dismissed teachers on the faculty are Saul Bernstein, Philip S. Foner and Walter Scott Neff. Teachers who failed to be reappointed who are on the new faculty include Lewis Balamuth, David Goldway and Max Yergan. Suspended teachers who will give courses include Morris U. Cohen, Sidney Eisenberger, Jack Foner, Maxwell Weisman and Max L. Hutt.

Selsam Is Director

All the teachers, except Schappes, denied that they had been Communists and most of them have suits pending seeking their reinstatement. Dr. Howard Selsam, who as assistant professor of philosophy at Brookly College was cited for disciplinary action, is director of the school.

The faculty, according to the announcement, "feels a keen sense of having begun a project of great meaning and significance." The school is described as "a new adult school for progressive education" and believes "that it can help to keep knowledge free, to equip a democratic people with the weapons to achieve untiy, defeat fascism and build a more democratic society."

JAN 12 1942

Among courses on current affairs, history, economics, politics, labor and trade unionism, the sciences, philosophy, literature, music and the arts, there is one on "Life, Literature and Culture in the U. S. S. R." in which at least seven lecturers will take part.

COMMUNISTS

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Time to Stop Bowing to Dies

JAN 30 1942

• Just as Rep. Dies was making his formal request to Congress for another $100,000 allegedly to unearth Fifth Column activity, the country got a glimpse—through the Lash case—of what the Texas Congressman really intends to do if he gets the appropriation.

The part played by the Dies Committee in connection with the application of Joseph Lash for a commission in the Navy, is a shocking case of a Congressional Committee pretending to expose the Fifth Column, but actually seeking to embarrass the wife of the President of the United States. At the same time, the Dies Committee successfully attempted to infringe upon the constitutional rights of Lash himself.

JAN 30 1942

Now, it is entirely legal and patriotic to be a Communist. Lash happens not to be a Communist, as the Dies Committee pretends. Lash's opposition to Communism is well known, as is the Communist Party's condemnation of Lash on occasion. We cannot presume to judge the qualifications of this applicant for the commission he sought in the Navy; but his right to apply and to be accepted or rejected solely on his ability, cannot be questioned.

But Dies has made it clear that he intends in this war situation to sit as a trial judge upon the right of the various departments under the President and even of the President himself, to make appointments. No one, presumably, can hold appointive office in Washington unless he gets an okay from Dies, the protector of fascists, anti-Semites and other disreputable elements!

Such a situation requires firmness on the part of the Administration. When Mrs. Roosevelt asked the Dies Committee to give Lash a special hearing so that he might get a clean bill of health from Dies, the First Lady not only belittled her own position but actually gave substance to Dies' claim that such powers are vested in himself and his committee.

JAN 30 1942

It should be obvious that if Dies gets his appropriation, non-Communists will suffer every bit as much as Communists—and possibly more. It is high time that people in the Administration stopped bowing and apologizing before Dies and, treating him with the contempt that this little dictator deserves, eliminate his committee from political life.

New Republic
New York, N. Y.

The Case of Earl Browder

MAR 23 1942

AMID THE TENSIONS and alarums of a global war Americans are in danger of forgetting the case of Earl Browder. We believe that it would serve both the ends of justice and of national policy today for the President to release him under his pardoning power.

The editors of The New Republic have consistently opposed the Communist Party and have regarded many of its policies, especially in the past few years, as both harmful and unwise. But if a Mormon had been unjustly treated by our law one would not have to be a Mormon to point out the injustice. Similarly with Browder as a Communist. Our readers will recall Wendell Willkie's condemnation of the Browder sentence in a New Republic article in 1940. And on the back page of last week's New Republic there was an appeal for Browder signed, among others, by such clearly non-Communist Americans as Alexander Meiklejohn, Henry Pratt Fairchild, Albert Guérard and Arthur Upham Pope.

There are two aspects of the Browder case—the legal aspect and the policy aspect. From a technical legal standpoint the case was debatable. It turned on the narrow question of whether presenting a passport for identification represented a "use" of the passport. On the fraud involved in obtaining the passport the statute of limitations had already run. While we accept the final judgment of the Supreme Court, it is worth noting that the case was not an open-and-shut one. Even more serious was the severity of the four-year sentence for an offense which had generally not been prosecuted in other instances or, when prosecuted, had been dealt with mildly. The case of a song writer immediately following Browder's and substantially similar to his, was disposed of with a $500 fine.

We conclude therefore that Browder's penalty was for his political offense in being the leader of the Communist Party at a time when the party line was at variance with American foreign policy. Such a political sentence is strongly antithetical to the American principle of the competition of ideas. Today, when America is at war, all considerations of national policy point in

the direction of releasing Browder. The Communist Party is staunchly supporting an all-out war effort. Hundreds of thousands of trade unionists who regard the Browder case as a test of the genuineness with which we mean our democratic principles would be heartened by his release. Russia, moreover, is today the strongest ally we have in our war against the fascist powers. Surely the release of Browder would be an elementary act by which we could reassure the Russian people that we are fighting on their side and are not at war with them. And such reassurance is needed from a government that is allowing the Coughlinites and the Christian Front to carry on the strongest fascist propaganda while it keeps Browder in prison for a technical offense.

MAR 23 1942

In 1917, when America entered the First World War, President Wilson appealed to the Governor of California to free Tom Mooney on the ground that it would reassure the American labor movement and help the conduct of the war. President Roosevelt need, in the case of Browder, appeal to no one but himself.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Dr. Du Bois to Speak At Browder Meeting

MAY 14 1942

Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, outstanding Negro leader and Professor of Sociology at Atlanta University, will address the Earl Browder Birthday Rally at Madison Square Garden next Wednesday, it was announced yesterday by the Citizens' Committee to Free Earl Browder.

Dr. DuBois has long been recognized as one of America's leading citizens. One of the founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, he has published many works on Negro life in this country.

The Committee also announced that Lewis Merrill, president of the CIO United Office and Professional Workers, would be among the speakers at the meeting for the release of the noted anti-fascist, now in prison for more than one year. The rally will mark Browder's 51st birthday.

MAY 14 1942

Other speakers at the meeting will include Professor Henry Pratt Fairchild, New York University; Ferdinand Smith, secretary of the National Maritime Union; Morris Mintz, New York State Assemblyman; Rep. Vito Marcantonio; Dr. Maxwell Ross, Democratic leader of the 23rd Assembly District; Dr. Max Yergan, president of the National Negro Congress, and Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, executive secretary of the Citizens' Committee.

Meanwhile, the New York Committee announced a series of street rallies to be held during the forthcoming week as part of the intensified campaign to win Browder's release. Janet Feder, executive secretary of the committee, said in a statement yesterday that the efforts of all justice - loving Americans should be increased now in the Browder drive.

"It is our patriotic duty," she said, "to join in this campaign and work day and night until justice is done and Browder is freed."

Among the street meetings which will be held are the following:

MAY 14 1942

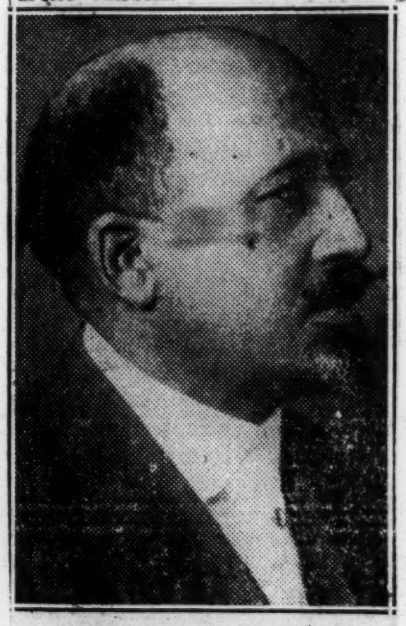
Tonight — 44th St. and Greenpoint Ave., Queens — Speakers: Joseph Starobin and Joseph Wilker.

Saturday night — 79th St. and Second Ave., Manhattan — Speakers: Dora Jone, Arthur Schultze, John Lautner.

Sunday afternoon — reception for Elizabeth Gurley Flynn and Mother Ella Reeve Bloor at 144 Lexington Ave. tendered by the American Artists Union.

Monday — Hotel Monterey, 8 P.M.—Speakers: Elizabeth Gurley Flynn and Joseph Brodsky.

Thursday, May 21—44th St. and Greenpoint Ave., Queens — Speakers: Mrs. Julia Church Kolar and Irene Hirsch.



DR. W. E. B. DuBOIS

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Dr. DuBois To Speak For Earl Browder

MAY 16 1942

Madison Square Scene of Rally On May 20th

Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, one of the country's best known leaders and professor of sociology at Atlanta University, will come to New York from Georgia to address the Free Browder rally in Madison Square Garden on May 20, was the announcement made at the offices of the Citizens' Committe to Free Earl Browder, sponsors of the meeting.

At the same time, the committee announced that Lewis Merrill, president of the United Office and Professional Workers of America, has been added to the list of nationally known Americans who will address the rally calling for the freedom of the imprisoned anti-Fascist, whose birthday falls on the same day of the Garden meeting.

MAY 16 1942

Dr. DuBois, who has long been recognized as one of America's foremost citizens, is a graduate of Harvard and Fisk Universities, and after his studies abroad, taught history and economics at Atlanta University from 1896 to 1910. He was one of the founders of the N. A. A. C. P. and was director of its publications and editor of the "Crisis" for 22 years, from 1910 to 1932.

The great rally at Madison Square Garden next Wednesday will also be addressed by Professor Henry Pratt Fairchild, of New York University; Ferdinand Smith, secretary, National Maritime Union; Morris Mintz, New York State assemblyman; Vito Marcantonio, congressman; Dr. Maxwell Ross, Democratic leader, 23d Assembly District; Dr. Max Yergan, president, National Negro Congress and Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, executive secretary, Citizens' Committee to Free Earl Browder.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.



DR. W. E. DuBOIS

MAY 20 1942

Negro Author Hails FDR's Statesmanship

Dr. W. E. DuBois, noted Negro author and Professor of Sociology at Atlanta University, and one of America's Negro leaders, in a teelgram to President Roosevelt characterized the release of Earl Browder as an "act of farseeing statesmanship."

MAY 19 1942

Dr. DuBois' telegram said:

"I regard your release of Earl Browder as an act of farseeing statesmanship."

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Earl Browder's Case

MAY 24 1942

LAST week President Roosevelt freed Communist secretary Earl Browder in the interest of national unity. It was the thought of most Americans that Browder had been persecuted because of his political belief instead of prosecuted for violations of the passport laws of this country. The fact that he was sentenced to a term of four years in the federal penitentiary when other violators for similar offenses are given considerably less hardly leaves room for any other logical deduction.

But whether President Roosevelt acted wisely in his action we leave to those who are more desirous of "making something out of it" than they are in viewing it from purely an objective angle. Perhaps the commutation of the Communist leader's sentence to fourteen months will make for national unity. Perhaps it will not. It depends entirely on the future position of the Soviet Union in international politics and military collaboration. For the moment, however, all is well with diplomatic relationship between America and Russia and who can deny that the future will be otherwise?

MAY 24 1942

While there be doubt as to whether the release of Browder will achieve the ends sought, there are other prisoners, the release of whom would undoubtedly bring us closer to national unity.

If the governor of Alabama would free the remaining Scottsboro boys; if the governors of Mississippi, Georgia, Florida and Louisiana would free the prisoners who were convicted solely because they were Negroes, and who had been accused of committing crimes against white people; if Governor Darden of Virginia would free Sharecropper Odell Waller, the morale of the thirteen million Negroes in America would reach a new high and the liberty loving people of this country would achieve a greater unity and be further inspired by the principles of justice and freedom.

MAY 24 1942

Earl Browder's case is not unlike many trials of which colored Americans have been the defendants. Many Negroes have been convicted by reason of trumped up charges in the efforts of certain "influences" to get them out of circulation.

If Earl Browder's case deserves consideration, we say there are hundreds of Negro prisoners who ought to be dealt the same or similar treatment.

52a-1942

COMMUNISTS

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Mrs. Bethune Calls Dies' Accusations "Malicious, Absurd"

OCT 3 - 1942 OCT 3 - 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 1—Representative Martin L. Dies, chairman of the Dies Committee on Un-American Activities, shocked the nation's capital last week when he branded Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, "First Lady of Colored America" and champion of the cause of democracy, as being a "Communist."

Mr. Dies, whose job it is to investigate subversive activities in America, also named other Negroes as being "Communists" in his report from the floor of the House of Representatives.

Mrs. Bethune, president and founder of Bethune-Cookman college in Daytona Beach, Fla., and president and founder of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc., has been confidante and consultant to Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt on Negro affairs for many years. Her fight for the rights of Negroes and other minority groups is one of long standing, and her activities in behalf of Negroes are known throughout the country.

When interviewed by a Courier correspondent in Washington this week, Mrs. Bethune said:

"Representative Martin Dies, chairman of the Dies Committee on un-American Activities, has accused me on the floor of the House of being a Communist. The absurdity of the charge inclined me at first to ignore it. I feel now, however, that I should brand the accusation for what it is: a malicious misstatement of the truth.

OCT 3 - 1942

"I do not know Representative Dies. Because of his accusation, I am positive he does not know me. To those who know me, I need no statement of denial. If Representative Dies sees fit to name me a 'Communist' as a result of outspoken belief in a true democracy under our American form of government, my incessant efforts in seeking for all Americans the Constitutionally guaranteed rights of full citizenship, regardless of race, creed or color, my endeavors to enlist the full cooperative strength of America in our victory efforts, then the names Mr. Dies chooses to apply are to me but tinkling cymbals and sounding brass.

OCT 3 - 1942

"I shall continue along the straight, true course I have followed through all these years and I pray some Divine signal may sound in the mind of Mr. Dies that may awaken him to a realization that his accusation against loyal Americans will bring but small discomfort, but can be of great comfort to our enemies."

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Dies' Charges Are Ridiculed By NAACP Chief

SEP 29 1942

Texan Rendering Service to Axis, NAACP Contends

SEP 29 1942

NEW YORK—(SNS)— Branding Congressman Martin Dies' charges that Mrs. McLeod Bethune, William Pickens and E. Franklin Frazier are communists as "utterly fantastic and vicious," Walter White, N. A. A. C. P. executive secretary, told the Texas congressman in a letter Thursday, September 24, that his unwarranted attack has supplied excellent ammunition to the enemies of America.

Dies charged 19 federal officials, including the three distinguished Negroes, of being leaders of an allegedly Communist-dominated organization, His charges were inserted in the Congressional Record for September 24.

SEP 29 1942

SERVICE TO AXIS

Stated Walter White: "Impugning the loyalty and integrity of the most beloved and best-known Negro woman in America would be an infinite service to the Axis, if your statement were to be believed, in destroying the faith of Negroes and of colored peoples in other parts of the world in their belief that the United States is in truth fighting a war for democracy.

"You attack on distinguished Negroes, with the apparent southern attitude that it is safe to do so because they are not able to hit back effectively would be almost the final cruising blow to the Negro's patriotism if he did not take into account the source of these attacks."

SEP 29 1942

RIDICULES CHARGE

The NAACP executive ridiculed the idea that Mr. Pickens or Dr. Frazier could be considered "communist", concluding: I am quite certain that your unwarranted attack on the patriotism of these individuals will be exceedingly useful to Tokyo in its broadcasts to the one billion colored peoples of the Orient in efforts to convince them that they should cast their lot with Japan instead of with the United Nations, on the ground that on the race issue the United States and Great Britain are insincere."

Branded As 'Reds' By Texan

OCT 3 - 1942

the Informer
Houston, Tex.

OCT 3 - 1942

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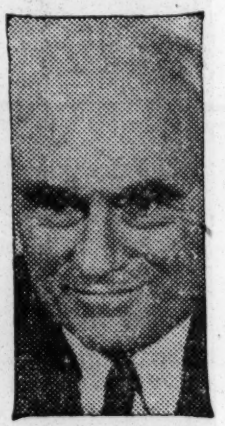
Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla.

ROBERT MINOR WILL ADDRESS LOCAL RALLY

Nov. 14 1942

Robert Minor, native Texan, and assistant general secretary of the Communist party, will speak at the Shrine Auditourium here Sunday at 8 p.m. at a "Win-the-War" rally, sponsored by the local Communist party.

Mr. Minor, who is also well known as a war correspondent and champion of civil liberties, will speak on the topic, "National Unity For Victory." There will be no segregation at the meeting.



After Mr. Minor's talk, there will be a showing of the film, "A Day in Soviet Russia" which is written and narrated by the noted war reporter, Quentin Reynolds.

In addition there will be a showing of newsreels of fighting on the Russian front and a U. S. government war film. This is the first time that these pictures have been shown in Oklahoma city.

The public is invited to attend this victory rally and admission is free, although there will be a collection taken for the community and war chest.

'To Serve My People'

Daily Worker

By EBNER W. BERRY

OCT 18 1942

BENJAMIN J. DAVIS, Jr., Communist candidate for Representative-at-large for New York was born in a political atmosphere. His father was for years Republican National Committeeman for Georgia, and young Ben began worrying about the political score at a tender age. From Republican home environment to leadership in the Communist Party was not a quick jump, nor was the road from one to the other quite straight.

N.Y. World-Telegram

Ben's way to the Communist Party led through Amherst and Harvard. Unlike many other young Negroes who have had the same family and educational background, Ben remained true to the traditions of his fighting people.

AT AMHERST he had thrilled to the acclaim of the crowds for his prowess at football, and had enjoyed the relatively free atmosphere of New York on holidays. But always there were the stinging pricks of prejudice, reminding him, as it does all Negroes that freedom was still ahead.

OCT 18 1942

Studying law at Harvard only drove the lesson home harder. He couldn't square what he was learning with the semi-barbarism which passed for law from the hands of the ruling oligarchy in his home state. Moreover, to him the Republican party, the party in which he was born, and to which his father adheres to this day, although it still contained many fighters in the Lincoln tradition, seemed to offer no relief from the indignities any sensitive Negro suffers.

BACK from Harvard in the early thirties he played championship tennis. Old tennis players still speak of his dazzling speed which terrified his court opponents. But the routine career of the tennis-playing lawyer was short. The Herndon case did it.

In January, 1933, Ben became Anglo Herndon's lawyer (here was a case in which the young lawyer could express his contempt for those who had studiedly humiliated his people; and here was a defendant whose speeches were also a defense of his attorney—indeed of humanity).

From that day in a Georgia court "Big Ben" of the football field, the tennis court, Amherst and Harvard, began his transformation into Ben Davis, the people's tribune.

Meet Ben Davis, Jr., Communist Candidate

"Daily Worker"

HIS challenge to the prosecution in the Herndon case foretold his present role and position. When the prosecutor referred to Herndon as "this n————r," Davis entered a vigorous protest and demanded this insult to the Negro people be ruled out by the court, and that my client be referred to as 'Mr. Herndon.'"

Ever since that day "Big Ben" has been on the firing line; the great energy with which he stopped an opposing ball carrier he turned to the fight for the freedom of his people and the expansion of democracy in America. At 39 he is now a veteran of that fight.

New York, N.Y.

Giving up his law practice in 1934 he became the editor of the **Liberator**, a militant Negro newspaper; later, as an editor of the **Daily Worker**, his work was highlighted by his campaign for the passage of the anti-lynching bill, and against the vicious film, Gone With the Wind. His testimony before a Senate Committee on the anti-lynching bill in 1940 shook the entire country on the subject.

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UPON the broad shoulders of "Big Ben" rests three great responsibilities: Chairman of the New York County Committee of the Communist Party, Executive Secretary of the Upper Harlem Section of the Communist Party and his Party's candidate for Representative-at-Large from New York. ("To me these posts represent a great honor conferred upon me," he says. "It gives me a greater opportunity to serve my people and my country.")

In this election campaign he is serving his people and the anti-fascist cause as no other candidate could. His candidacy raises plenty of difficulties for the old line political leaders, who have made a horse-trading proposition of the Negro question: "What are you going to do about equitable representation of Negroes in the national government?"

WITH both major parties running anti-Roosevelt gubernatorial candidates, Ben Davis and his running mates stand out as win-the-war fighters for the Second Front. Now the Negro people can vote for their rights, for opening up a Second Front, for achieving the equality of peoples in the course of a people's war.

OCT 18 1942

"Big Ben" is a big man; but he makes people feel at home with him. He is large without towering over those to whom he speaks or with whom he works (unless it be a reactionary prosecutor or a poll tax Senator).

A NEGRO newspaperman said of him that he makes himself one with the people right away. His campaign proves it. Already scores of Negro leaders of every political persuasion have indorsed him; a non-partisan committee has been organized in his behalf; Rev. Thomas S. Harten, Vice-President of the National Baptist Convention, in indorsing him, said that "any Negro who does not vote for Davis is a traitor to the cause of Jesus, the Negro people and the country."

The tenants with whom he worked and fought have established a committee to work for his election. Rev. Ethelred Brown, a Socialist, who is chairman of the Non-Partisan Committee to Elect Benjamin Davis, Jr., as Representative-at-Large, stated that "only a man of Mr. Davis' calibre" can cope with the problems we now face.

OCT 18 1942

WHEN questioned as to how he could campaign and still find time to help tenants, work for the solution of the delinquency problem in Harlem and attend to his executive duties, Mr. Davis replied that **"I would not be worthy of my people or my party if my campaign was not built in around the issues and struggles which confront the people."**

What the people of Harlem think of Ben was expressed by a young Negro in discussing Ben and the Communist Party. "Now when some parties and people make a promise, they mean 'maybe,' but when Mr. Davis and his Party make a promise they mean 'sure enough.'"



BEN DAVIS, Jr.

52a-1942
The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

COMMUNIST

Town Honors Negro Communist

New Rochelle Mayor Calls Him 'Outstanding'

(Special to the Daily Worker)

MT. VERNON, N. Y., June 27.—Headed by Mayor Stanley Church of New Rochelle, a gathering of 200 persons paid tribute at the Hotel Siwanoy here last night to Herbert Wheeldon, Westchester Communist Party chairman and a leading figure in the Negro community, on the eve of his departure for the Army.

Wheeldon, active in progressive movements for many years, recently volunteered and came back for a brief furlough.

Presiding over the testimonial banquet was the Reverend P. K. Fonvielle, Pastor of the Centennial A.M.E. Zion Church and president of the Mt. Vernon branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Peoples.

Besides Mayor Church and Dr. Fonvielle, other speakers included Benjamin Levister, president of the Mt. Vernon Housing Council and a leading Negro Republican; Dr. Edward Jones, vice-chairman of the Yonkers Democratic Committee and influential leader of the Yonker's Negro community; Councilman Peter V. Cacchione, Communist member of the City Council; Cap Walker of the Westchester Young Communist League and James Turnbull, the noted American artist and Wheeldon himself. All the speakers paid tribute to Wheeldon's outstanding contributions to Westchester and his political courage and insight.

"Wheeldon is an outstanding citizen of Westchester and in taking up arms he is doing his duty as a good American," said Mayor Church.

Wheeldon was tendered a portable radio and other gifts by members of the Westchester County organization.

Replying briefly to the speeches, Wheeldon urged that "a fierce hatred of Fascism flame up in every heart." "We have to learn to boil over with fighting rage about Fascism. I know that is the way I feel," said Wheeldon.

Wheeldon's place will be taken by Miss P. E. Keep, with offices at 45 Warburton Ave., Yonkers

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

JUN 27 1942

Rankin Raves Again, Blasts Negro's Friends

Racial Tirade Is Inserted In House Record

By ALVIN E. WHITE

WASHINGTON, D. C. (ANP) — Called "Hunk of Mud" by Carl Sandburg, one of the most noted American authors of today, Congressman John S. Rankin of Mississippi, equally noted Negrophobe took occasion last week to use the privileges accorded members of the house to insert into the Congressional Record another torrent of villification aimed at the Negro.

Rankin labelled Sandburg, a "communist," his favorite appellation for persons who do not see eye to eye with him in all things, and one calculated to stir the resentment of the rest of the southern coterie of legislators against any one.

"In other words," said the man from Mississippi, "he has joined that bunch of communistic agitators who are trying to mongrelize America, stirring up race trouble all over the country, and using the Negro as a smoke screen for their treacherous designs.

SOUR ON BLOOD

"They want to pump Negro blood or Japanese blood into the veins of our wounded white boys, regardless of the dire effect it might have on them or their children. They have a few parlor pink, irresponsible women such as Pearl Buck running around preaching this nonsense to the disgust of the decent white people, as well as to the disgust of decent, law-abiding Negroes of the country.

"Pearl Buck is advocating intermarriage between the white and yellow races. She is doing so ostensibly to please the Chinese, who have never asked for such a policy and do not expect it. What the Chinese want is help to defend China against the Japanese. But Pearl Buck's policy would have our white people intermarry with the Japs and thereby mongrelize our western states.

"One of these parlor pink fellow travelers writes me from Boston as follows: "If I were a doctor I would administer Negro blood to a Mississippi white man, just as I would give sugar pills to a hypochrondrian.

BLAMES NEGRO'S FRIENDS

"These crackpots, communists and parlor pinks are responsible for the race trouble we have had here in Washington. They are busy stirring up this trouble, trying to force Negroes and whites into the same dining rooms, hotels, picture shows and other places of amusements. Members of the police force have told me repeatedly of the Communist dances they have witnessed in certain sections of the city and of seeing these Communist women with Negro men, while the male communists danced with Negro women.

"These subversive elements are the worst enemies the Negroes ever had, and their pernicious activities are simply piling up trouble for the Negroes, as well as for the white people throughout the whole country, especially here in the District of Columbia and in the southern states.

TERMED ENEMIES

"The Negroes and whites in the south, where they understand each other, are getting along very well, and will continue to do so if these trouble makers will let them alone."

Rankin concluded his tirade with a blast against Russia and then wound up by saying:

"While our boys are fighting Hitler, Mussolini, Japan, and the other enemies from without, their people at home must take care of these enemies within."

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

JUL 1 1942

COMMUNISM AND THE NEGRO

IT IS A RARE occasion when we use this space to print opinions other than our own. This is one of those rare occasions and all as result of widespread comment on our leading editorial of the above caption two weeks ago. We give this space over to Ben Davis Jr., because his letter is so lengthy that many readers might pass it by if it appeared in our Letters To The Editor column. Our comment on the letter will be made next week.

The letter of Mr. Davis, who is a member of the Daily Worker editorial staff, follows:

To The Editor of The New York Age:

It is apparent from the editorial in your issue of June 27, entitled "Communism and the Negro," that your paper is under great misapprehension. This editorial quite fairly credits the Communists and the Daily Worker with a great fight for the Negroes' cause beforethe present war, but makes a gross error in assuming that we have ceased to do so now. The Daily Worker, the Communist Party and other clear-headed win-the-war forces are fighting for full Negro equality now as before; and we consider it even more necessary now in order to secure our country's victory over Hitler.

You place me in the same category with the distinguished Negro leader and president of the National Negro Congress, Dr. Max Yergan. I am honored. It is well known that Dr. Yergan is not a Communist, although I am pleased that his activities as a patriotic fighter for his people and for his country's victory in the war have led you to feel that he is close to the Communists.

For some time there has been a whispering campaign under way among the Negro people with reference to the Daily Worker and the Communist Party, responsibility for which does not lie upon the Negro people. This campaign is aimed not alone against the Communists and the Daily Worker, but it is also inimical to the best interests of the Negro people and of the nation's war effort. It claims falsely and fantastically that since the Daily Worker and the Communist Party support the war, they believe "now's the time to keep silent" about the Negro's rights. This is so patently and notoriously untrue, that we are surprised to see The New York Age taken by it, especially to the extent of innocently using the very same words of the whisperers.

In the first place, the Daily Worker and the

Communist Party give unqualified support to the war of our country to smash Hitler and all his Axis accomplices. We believe it is your patriotic desire to do the same, and are quite sure that the Negro people take their stand with their nation as they always have in every crisis, from 1775 to 1942. We have no apologies for this position. While we believe your paper supports the war, the editorial in question was unclear on this—the all-decisive issue—before all Awericans whatever their race, color, creed, political affiliation or class.

The Negro people cannot be true to their own best interests without supporting the war.

The slaveowners' Feuhrer, Jeff Davis, of 1861 is today reincarnated in Berlin—his name is Adolph Hitler. The lynchers, Ku Kluxers, the Rankins, the jim-crow poll taxers, the defeatists and Fifth Columnists—are serving Hitler today as the Copperheads served Jeff Davis against Lincoln in 1861. The Negro people will fight the Jeff Davis of Berlin today as they fought the Jeff Davis of Montgomery, Alabama, in 1864.

Jeff Davis' slave market stench in 1861, extended into the North and poisoned the Union forces with brutal attitude toward the Negro, a hatred of Abolinists, that seriously impeded the war. In order that the people could be united to crush the "Adolph Hitler" of 1861, it was necessary to combat these brutalities and weakness in the Northern forces. But the war had to go, even while the injustices still continued in the North. Also now the stench of Hitlerism must be removed from our life in order to strengthen national unity for victory over Hitler—and this is not in contradiction to our demand that the war must go on. No enemy voice must sidetrack us from that necessity.

There are those who say this it a "white man's war," as many of the followers of Garrison said of the Civil War. In reply, permit us to quote Frederick Douglass, the noblest Negro leader and the one who saw clearly and further than any other man—even Lincoln—and who proved himself to be one of the greatest statesmen of our country's history:

"There are week and cowardly men in all nations. We have them amongst us. They tell you this is a 'white man's war;' that you 'will be no better off after than before the war;' that the getting of you into the army is to 'sacrifice you on the altar of opportunity.' Believe them not, cowards themselves, they do not wish to have their cowardice shamed by your brave example. Leave them to their timidity, or to whatever motive may hold them

We do not believe The Age to be in the category which is criticized.

graph of your editorial states ... can less afford to keep si... than at any time in his... ... that we only get what we are willing to fight and **die for. At the same time we are fighting to repel an invading foe, we must insist that our neighbors here at home realize and recognize us as and give us all the rights and privileges of Americans too."**

With this statement the Daily Worker agrees 100 per cent. We make at all times all of the demands for equality of the Negro. As you truly say, we have made these demands and fought for them in the past. But the peculiarity of the present situation is that the granting of these demands is absolutely necessary now in order to strengthen our country's war effort. We can and must win these demands now, where we could not win before. We never could before, but we can now, wipe out the Jim Crow system. These demands are not demands against the war, but for the war at the same time that they are for the Negro. We demand the wiping out of the ugly stain of "racial" persecution of Hitlerism in Ameirca, as a necessary strengthening of our country so that we can wipe Hitlerism off the face of the whole earth.

There is evidence too voluminous to quote here to prove this is the records and deeds of both the Daily Worker and the Communist Party—and in the experience of the Negro people. How is it possible for The Age to contend that the Daily Worker counsels "silence" on the Negro rights since June 22, 1941, when on the same page of the Worker of June 14, 1942, containing an article by the writer which you attack, there were articles castigating jim-crow in the armed forces and in industry? How can your editorial contend that the Daily Worker counsels "silence" on Negro rights since June 22, 1941, (or since Pearl Harbor), when the Daily Worker has been and is campaigning against the poll tax, lynching, discrimination, segregation and when these campaigns are seen in virtually every edition of the paper regularly? Evidently The Age editorial writer did not understand our contention that the fight for Negro rights must be intensified for the very reason that we are at war and want the strongest national unity to win that war.

While the Daily Worker agrees with The Age that "Negroes can less afford to keep silent than ever"—something must be said in addition. Not alone can the Negroes ill afford to be silent. NO American—white or black, capitalist or worker, Jew or Gentile, Catholic or Protestant—can afford to be silent about the jim-crow evils which shamefully exist against Negroes. For these evils, always unjust, now impair winning the war and must be eliminated without delay. Without the full integration of the Negro into war industries, into the governing councils of the nation, into the armed forces—as free and equal citizens—victory is endangered.

In view of all this, it is even more ridiculous for The Age editorial to claim that the Daily Worker has the same position as Roy Howard's flunkey Westbrook Pegler. We don't believe The Age editor would on second thought insist upon this contention. No Negro in this country, no matter how mis-informed he may be with reference to the Daily Worker or the Communists, would seriously think our position is anyting like Mr. Howard's little pro-fascist Negro-and-Red-baiter. In fact, the editor of The New York Age sent a statement to the Daily Worker, at the writer's request, denouncing Pegler's attack upon the Negro press; and the statement was printed in the Worker of May 17.

As "evidence" that the Daily Worker has the same position as Roy Howard's underling, The Age editorial cited an open letter by the writer to A. Philip Randolph published in the Worker of June 14. But The Ages case collaspses when it strangely fails to print a single quotation from this open letter. Among other things this letter stated: "The Daily Worker emphasizes today that because our country is defending its very national existence, it is imperative that jim-crowism be eliminated from our armed forces and civilian life. The integration of Negro citizens into the war effort on a basis of full equality is vital to national unity and victory.

Although the open letter said plainly why it did not give advance publicity to the Madison Square Garden rally of June 16, The Age asks all over again, and intimates that our letter damaged the meeting. Quite the contrary. Our letter assisted the Negro people and the meeting by doing what certain Norman Thomas Socialists in the sponsorship of the meeting tried to avoid doing; it showed the Negro people their relationship to the war and pointed out that their own special demands are to be won through the prosecution of the war to victory. This was highly beneficial to the meeting for none of these political bedfellows of the Norman Thomas Socialists dared to insult the Negro people by using a meeting of theirs to denounce the war against the "Jeff Davis" of Berlin. There were no red-baiting speeches at the Garden rally to disrupt the Negro people's unity or to block the justifiable 8-point demands that were adopted which the Daily Worker and the Communist wholeheartedly support. The concessions to red-baiting in your editorially certainly do not represent the sentiment of the Negro people, who long ago learned to say "So what!" to red-baiters who try to discredit their struggles.

The abolition of slavery came as a war ne... unphanthy won. Does The Age object to ... the opportunities now being opened to Negroes ... —although entirely too slowly—because these ... opportunities are necessary to our winning the ... war in which we Negroes have as much—or ... more—at stake than any other minority Amer... ican group; Does The Age wish to hold ted to the extinction of slavery, even ... up the progress of the Negro until full citizen... ship comes as a result of some overnight uto... pian philanthropy—handed down on a silver ... platter in a dream world? Does The Age ... wish to sit with folded hands until Hitler wins

JUL 1 1942

JUL 1 1942

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Yours truly,
BEN DAVIS, JR.

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The Negro people cannot be true to their own best interests without supporting the war.

The slaveowners' Feuhrer, Jeff Davis, of 1861 is today reincarnated in Berlin—his name is Adolph Hitler. The lynchers, Ku Kluxers, the Rankins, the jim-crow poll taxers, the defeatists and Fifth Columnists—are serving Hitler today as the Copperheads served Jeff Davis against Lincoln in 1861. The Negro people will fight the Jeff Davis of Berlin today as they fought the Jeff Davis of Montgomery, Alabama, in 1864.

Jeff Davis' slave market stench in 1861 extended into the North and poisoned the Union forces with brutal attitude toward the Negro, a hatred of Abolinists, that seriously impeded the war. In order that the people could be united to crush the "Adolph Hitler" of 1861, it was necessary to combat these brutalities and weakness in the Northern forces. But the war had to go, even while the injustices still continued in the North. Also now the stench of Hitlerism must be removed from our life in order to strengthen national unity for victory over Hitler—and this is not in contradiction to our demand that the war must go on. No enemy voice must sidetrack us from that necessity.

There are those who say this it a "white man's war," as many of the followers of Garrison said of the Civil War. In reply, permit us to quote Frederick Douglass, the noblest Negro leader and the one who saw clearly and further than any other man—even Lincoln—and who proved himself to be one of the greatest statesmen of our country's history:

"There are week and cowardly men in all nations. We have them amongst us. They tell you this is a 'white man's war;' that you 'will be no better off after than before the war;' that the getting of you into the army is to 'sacrifice you on the altar of white unity.' Believe them not, cowards themselves, they do not wish to have their cowardice shamed by your brave example. Leave them to their timidity, or to whatever motive may hold them back, but do not believe them. The Age is not to be in the category which

of your editorial states ... afford to keep si... time than at any time in his... that we only get what we are willing to fight and die for. At the same time we are fighting to repel an invading foe, we must insist that our neighbors here at home realize and recognize us as and give us all the rights and privileges of Americans too."

With this statement the Daily Worker agrees 100 per cent. We make at all times all of the demands for equality of the Negro. As you truly say, we have made these demands and fought for them in the past. But the peculiarity of the present situation is that the granting of these demands is absolutely necessary now in order to strengthen our country's war effort. We can and must win these demands now, where we could not win before. We never could before, but we can now, wipe out the Jim Crow system. These demands are not demands against the war, but for the war at the same time that they are for the Negro. We demand the wiping out of the ugly stain of "racial" persecution of Hitlerism in America, as a necessary strengthening of our country so that we can wipe Hitlerism off the face of the whole earth.

There is evidence too voluminous to quote here to prove this is the records and deeds of both the Daily Worker and the Communist Party—and in the experience of the Negro people. How is it possible for The Age to contend that the Daily Worker counsels "silence" on the Negro rights since June 22, 1941, when on the same page of the Worker of June 14, 1942, containing an article by the writer which you attack, there were articles castigating jim-crow in the armed forces and industry? How can your editorial contend that the Daily Worker counsels "silence" on Negro rights since June 22, 1941, (or much of the Negro rights since Pearl Harbor), when the Daily Worker has been and is campaigning against the poll tax, lynching, discrimination, segregation and when these campaigns are seen in virtually every edition of the paper regularly? Evidently The Age editorial writer did not understand our contention that the fight for Negro rights must be intensified for the very reason that we are at war and want the strongest national unity to win that war.

While the Daily Worker agrees with The Age that "Negroes can less afford to keep silent than ever"—something must be said in addition. Not alone can the Negroes ill afford to be silent. NO American—white or black, capitalist or worker, Jew or Gentile, Catholic or Protestant—can afford to be silent about the jim-crow evils which shamefully exist against Negroes. For these evils, always unjust, now impair winning the war and must be eliminated without delay. Without the full integration of the Negro into war industries, into the governing councils of the nation, into the armed forces—as free and equal citizens—victory is endangered.

In view of all this, it is even more ridiculous for The Age editorial to claim that the Daily Worker has the same position as Roy Howard's flunkey Westbrook Pegler. We don't believe The Age editor would on second thought insist upon this contention. No Negro in this country, no matter how mis-informed he may be with reference to the Daily Worker or the Communists, would seriously think our position is anyting like Mr. Howard's little pro-fascist Negro-and-Red-baiter. In fact, the editor of The New York Age sent a statement to the Daily Worker, at the writer's request, denouncing Pegler's attack upon the Negro press; and the statement was printed in the Worker of May 17.

As "evidence" that the Daily Worker has the same position as Roy Howard's underling, The Age editorial cited an open letter by the writer to A. Philip Randolph published in the Worker of June 14. But The Ages case collaspses when it strangely fails to print a single quotation from this open letter. Among other things this letter stated: "The Daily Worker emphasizes today that because our country is defending its very national existence, it is imperative that jim-crowism be eliminated from our armed forces and civilian life. The integration of Negro citizens into the war effort on a basis of full equality is vital to national unity and victory.

Although the open letter said plainly why it did not give advance publicity to the Madison Square Garden rally of June 16, The Age asks all over again, and intimates that our letter damaged the meeting. Quite the contrary. Our letter assisted the Negro people and the meeting by doing what certain Norman Thomas Socialists in the sponsorship of the meeting tried to avoid doing; it showed the Negro people their relationship to the war and pointed out that their own special demands are to be won through the prosecution of the war to victory. This was highly beneficial to the meeting for none of these political bedfellows of the Norman Thomas Socialists dared to insult the Negro people by using a meeting of theirs to denounce the war against the "Jeff Davis" of Berlin. There were no red-baiting speeches at the Garden rally to disrupt the Negro people's unity or to block the justifiable 8-point demands that were adopted which the Daily Worker and the Communist wholeheartedly support. The concessions to red-baiting in your editorially certainly do not represent the sentiment of the Negro people, who long ago learned to say "So what!" to red-baiters who try to discredit their struggles.

The abolition of slavery came as a war necessity even before the Civil War was triumphantly won. Does The Age object to the opportunities now being opened to Negroes —although entirely too slowly—because these opportunities are necessary to our winning the war in which we Negroes have as much—or more—at stake than any other minority American group; Does The Age wish to hold up the progress of the Negro until full citizenship comes as a result of some overnight utopian philanthropy—handed down on a silver platter in a dream world? Does The Age wish to sit with folded hands until Hitler wins and nothing is attainable—until American minorities are drenched in their own blood as in occupied Europe?

Douglass said of the far too inadequate Emancipation Proclamation: "For my own part, I took the Proclamation first and last, for a little more than it purported and saw in its spirit a life and power far beyond its letter. It was, in my estimation, an immense gain to have the war for the Union committed to the extinction of slavery, even from a military necessity. It is not a bad thing to have inidividuals or nations do right, though they do so from selfish motives."

President Roosevelt has appointed the historic Fair Employment Practice Committee

the unions are learning the necessity of unity with the Negro people for equality; and the Negro people are making gains, in the very prosecution of this war, even though these gains must especially be speeded by our national government, by labor and by the Negro press and people. These things are done to win the war. Are they any the less beneficial to the Negro people?

Yours truly,

BEN DAVIS, JR.

52a-1942
Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

BILL TO REGISTER U.S. COMMUNISTS VETOED BY F. D. R.

FEB 10 1942

Dies Cites Reds in Key Jobs as Reason for Action.

52a

BY CHESLY MANLY.

[Chicago Tribune Press Service.]

Washington, D. C., Feb. 9.—A bill under which the Roosevelt administration was committed to require the registration of the communist party was vetoed today by the President.

Rep. Martin Dies [D., Tex.], chairman of the house committee on un-American activities, said he was not surprised by the President's veto message. He called attention to predictions often made by him in the house that the administration never would permit legislation requiring the registration of the communist party to become law.

"The reason is obvious," Dies said. "Such registration would expose the thousands of communists who are holding key positions in the government."

FEB 10 1942

Never Enforced Against Reds.

The bill vetoed by the President was designed to strengthen the act of June 8, 1938, which requires all agents of foreign principals to file a registration statement at the state department but which never has been enforced against the communist party.

In his veto message to the house of representatives, Mr. Roosevelt said the bill was designed as a peacetime measure "to force the disclosure of the activities of foreign agents who may abuse the hospitality of our country or weaken our national unity by fostering discord and distrust."

Our participation in the war in cooperation with the 25 united nations "whose defense we deem vital to our defense" presents a different situation, the President said.

Seeks to Avoid "Interference."

"To achieve victory we must be certain that there is a minimum of interference with the strengthening and perfecting of joint action," the veto message continued. "Active collaboration of a military or economic nature with friendly countries requires the fullest and most constant exchange of representatives between us."

FEB 10 1942

Mr. Roosevelt added that the requirements of the legislation he vetoed might in many instances be "unnecessary, inappropriate, and onerous in respect to the representatives of friendly nations who are constantly coming to and from the United States to coöperate with us."

He recommended that congress revise the legislation by granting broad discretionary powers to the attorney general with respect to the registration of foreign agents.

Referred to Committee.

The vetoed bill was referred to the house judiciary committee, which will determine whether to submit it to a vote of the house or to recommend substitute legislation.

Altho the bill did not name the communist party, the house of representatives was assured by Majority Leader John W. McCormack [D., Mass.] and ranking majority members of the judiciary committee on Jan. 28, when the legislation was approved in final form and sent to the White House, that it certainly would require the communist party to register or be prosecuted.

Administration leaders made these pledges in support of a conference agreement which had eliminated two house amendments by Rep. Dies specifically naming the communist party, the German-American bund, and the Kyffhauser bund. A motion by Dies to recommit the bill for the purpose of restoring these amendments was rejected by a standing vote of 228 to 40.

FEB 10 1942

Deal Charged by Dies.

According to Dies the administration leaders made a deal with the Republicans which prevented a record vote in the house. The Republicans agreed not to force a record vote in return for the administration assurances that the bill would require the communists to register, Dies said.

"In any event, the present law, with the proposed amendments, covers everybody," McCormack told the house. "It covers the very organizations that my friend from Texas [Dies] talks about."

Rep. Hatton W. Sumners [D., Tex.], chairman of the judiciary committee, said: "Your committee on the judiciary, undertaking to deal with a recognized situation as your agent, brought in a bill here which nobody questions, covers every possible agency that could be covered if the Dies amendments were incorporated."

Administration leaders repeatedly pointed out that the bill would require the registration of any organization acting as an agent for any foreign government or any foreign political party or any other foreign principal.

FEB 10 1942

For the record, Dies accepted the pledges of the administration leaders that the bill would require the communist party to register.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

OUSTED RED EDITOR ACCEPTS CONVICTION

C. A. Hathaway Drops Fight to Escape Workhouse Term

FEB 4 - 1942

Clarence A. Hathaway, the ousted editor of the Communist paper, The Daily Worker, walked into General Sessions yesterday, and, through his lawyer, Edward Kuntz, told Judge Jacob Gould Schurman Jr., he had quit his fight to set aside his conviction in that court twenty months before on a criminal libel indictment. Judge John J. Freschi, who presided at his trial, had sentenced Hathaway to a thirty-day workhouse term and to pay a $500 fine.

Execution of the sentence was stayed at the time, and after the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court on Oct. 24 unanimously affirmed the conviction Hathaway obtained another stay to take the case to the Court of Appeals.

Judge Schurman yesterday referred the formal commitment of Hathaway to Judge Freschi, who is expected to act today.

FEB 4 - 1942

A blue-ribbon jury convicted Hathaway and the Comprodaily Publishing Company, Inc., owners of The Daily Worker, on the complaint of Mrs. Edith Liggett, widow of Walter Liggett, editor of a Minneapolis weekly, who in 1935 was slain by gunmen on the eve of his appearance as a witness before a legislative committee. She charged Hathaway and The Daily Worker had libeled her and the memory of her husband in articles published in 1936.

FEB 4 - 1942

Hathaway was ousted from the editorship of The Daily Worker, and also expelled from the Communist party in January, 1941.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

7,500 Auto Workers Ask Browder Release

JAN 23 1942

Fisk University AFL Teachers Local Also Petition FDR

JAN 23 1942

A resolution calling for the immediate release of Earl Browder has been adopted by the West Allis, Wisconsin, local of the United Auto Union and forwarded to President Roosevelt, the Citizens Committee to Free Earl Browder said yesterday.

The local, with a membership of 7,500, called Browder an "outstanding fighter against fascism" and said his freedom now would be a contribution to "the struggle to defeat fascism."

JAN 23 1942

The Citizens Committee also announced that an AFL local of the Fisk University Teachers Association had also adopted a resolution calling upon the President to free Browder.

JAN 23 1942

The university is one of the country's leading Negro educational institutions.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

APR 4 1942

'Cannot Rest While Browder Is in Jail'—Robeson

Paul Robeson, introduced by the chairman of the Browder Congress as "a citizen of the world," was received with tremendous applause. After making the following address, Robeson sang several songs, one of which he addressed directly to Earl Browder:

Thanks everybody. I needn't try to make any kind of a speech today. I am here almost, I would say definitely, very personally. I have been working very closely to Earl Browder's case. I feel it so deeply. Like I read in the papers yesterday of the seaman who said: "We will deliver, you deliver us Earl Browder."

I have come back from a long concert tour and have been working very hard and I feel it so closely that I won't rest until I know that a leader like Browder is out, not only for all of us, but for all, all over the world.

I have been also helping the committees out here and there and they have come up against difficulties and one of these difficulties should be pointed out. We know the history of the struggle against fascism. It always starts by throwing some of the finest fighters against fascism into prison. And who have been these great fighters? They have been, strange to say, the honest fighters of every country—they have been members of the Communist Party.

APR 4 1942

We in America have civil liberties, our Bill of Rights, and it seems as though here this could not happen. A man has a right to belong to any political party and Browder has shown us what fascism is in China, in Spain. Why should he be persecuted and why should a man like Browder who for years has pointed out the necessity to fight against fascism, who saw and pointed out the allies of democracy, and who saw that the greatest ally was the Soviet Union?

APR 4 1942

The people must realize the importance of releasing Earl Browder and what that would mean in the struggle for civil liberties, for Negro rights. It is necessary to get the American people deeply knowing that this is a struggle for their own lives, even before bombs drop down on us.

The reason I am here today is because I feel that we are fighting a people's war, so that I as a



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Negro can live like a human being, for a world where the working masses can have something to say about the control of their own destinies. And I feel that everyone of us who is here today knows that it is not a question of a resolution, or of money. It is a question, I feel, to see that this lesson is brought to others, that as long as Browder is in jail, it is our personal suffering. I feel that this is so close to us that we cannot go through one day, one hour without thinking about Earl Browder being in jail and that I must do something about it.

I am not going to take more of your time. I am going to start out with a song of William Blake's.

APR 4 1942

It seems to me that we should not stop a moment until Earl Browder is free and any time I can help—I assure you I am honest about it—I cannot rest quietly until he is free.

By GEORGE S. SCHUYLER

(This column represents the personal opinion of Mr. Schuyler and in no way reflects the editorial opinion of The Pittsburgh Courier.—The Editor)

APR 18 1942

The events of the past few years have brought about many amusing and tragic somersaults by individuals and groups, but none more lightning than those of the Communists. Even the late and lamented Chic Sale could not switch roles as speedily. My memory goes back to the split in the Socialist party during the first World War when the Left Wing deserted the party and struck out in the wake of Lenin and Trotsky. Those Socialists who supported the U. S. Government were dubbed imperialist tools by the same clique that now cries for all-out war effort to save democracy: i.e., Anglo-Saxon imperialism. This group, still influential in the Communist party, remained understandably silent about the acceptance by Lenin and his followers of a free ride through German territory in order to get to Russia and hamstring the Allied war effort through the 1917 revolution. Where once they quietly blessed the German General Staff for its aid to Lenin, they now bay for its blood.

Pittsburgh Courier

Reds who were once vitriolic in their denunciation of all imperialism, passed over in silence the grabbing by Stalin of part of Finland, half of Poland, Outer Mongolia, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. I recall when the Reds were hot to foment revolution among the black slaves of France, England and Belgium in Africa. Then they suddenly withdrew from this revolutionary activity in order to win French and British diplomatic recognition, leaving their black dupes at the mercy of the colonial police. The same Reds who were bitter in their denunciation of Hitler and Hitlerism later condoned the unholy alliance between Adolf and Joe which gave the Nazis the green light on Poland. Who does not remember the Reds' international campaign against war and fascism, when nothing was too bad to say against the Anglo-Saxon-French imperialists, and Father Divine's zombies paraded arm in arm with the Comrades? Who does not remember the slogan, "No collaboration with the bourgeoisie"? Today peace is anathema among the Reds and they cuddle as close to the bourgeoisie as possible. They denounced Chiang Kai Shek for murdering a million Communists. Now he is okeh on their books. This is a "United Front" with a vengeance.

PITTSBURGH, PA. APR 18 1942

Those who have followed the course of events will recall the zeal with which the Reds took up the cause of the Negro. Labor leaders were scored for compromising with discrimination. White comrades who refused to shuffle around dingy dance halls with their black brethren and sistern were summarily tried and ousted. Ofay ladies willing to give their all for the revolution were assigned to "capture" key Negroes, many of whom, like Barkis, were willin'. Ah, those were the happy days! The halcyon days of the Scottsboro racket!

But, as this observer monotonously prophesied, the time has come when the black brother must be sacrified to the larger interest: i.e., Russia's interest. The Party Line has changed on the Negro, my dearly beloved, and Comrade Mose must look elsewhere for succor.

* * *

The new Party Line on Br'er Rufus is that positively nothing must be permitted to interfere with the war effort, and therefore the Negroes must subordinate their interests to the larger issue. Thus, the yammering of Senegambians for an end to discrimination and segregation must cease lest it hamper aid to Stalin's Asiatic Tammany. Over and over again we hear this chorus of the Comrades.

At a confidential conference of a few Negroes and whites at the home of a New York newspaper publisher recently, a leading Negro Communist was asked by a white conferee, "If in a given plant a qualified Negro mechanic applied for employment and white workers threatened to slow down production if the Negro were hired, should we still insist on the employment of this qualified Negro?" The Negro Communist whose heart often bleeds for the African workers roared "No!" while the other Negroes present said "Yes." The Communist argued that NOTHING must be permitted to hamper the war effort, not even Negro enslaved rights.

APR 18 1942

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World War I. "Close ranks. Let us forget our grievances."

This is the line now taken by all the Red Uncle Toms. Eugene Gordon at a recent New York meeting declared the Negro press should consider Hitler and the Japanese the main enemy and the foes of Negro rights in this country as secondary. He bitterly denounced The Pittsburgh Courier's "Double V" campaign. What good it would do for the Negro to remain a pariah though the Axis were crushed, he did not say. Neither do the other Reds. As long as Russia is saved, to hell with the Negro. This is the same Gordon who once argued

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Free Browder Drive Bared As Red Move

World-Telegram

Campaign Fails To Enlist Many Non-Communists

By FREDERICK WOLTMAN.
World-Telegram Staff Writer.

On Friday, the day of the President's birthday ball, the White House will be flooded with messages urging the immediate release of Earl Browder.

"Tens of thousands" of individual telegrams and "hundreds of thousands" of post cards to the White House January 30! That's the goal drummed up for weeks in a nationwide campaign on behalf of the Communist standard bearer who has served ten months of a three-year term in Atlanta for passport fraud.

Outwardly, the Free Browder drive looks like a spontaneous, mass expression of the people. Over 2,000,000 signatures are claimed.

Browder himself is likened to Tom Paine, Jefferson, Washington and Lincoln. In the campaign literature, he is referred to as "the incarcerated anti-fascist." (When incarcerated, Browder was plugging away for the Berlin-Moscow pact, opposing lend-lease aid and the national defense program.)

Actually, a survey showed today, the drive is virtually an out-and-out party-sponsored affair; indeed, one of the most ambitious, concentrated propaganda efforts ever put on by the American Communists.

Mooney Is Key Figure.

Furthermore, despite every device used to make it appear to be a popular upsurge for justice and fair play, the Free Browder movement has been surprisingly unsuccessful in enlisting non-Communist support.

It has been able to obtain signatures of such non-Reds as former Republican Senator George Wharton Pepper, the Rev. Harry Emerson Fosdick, Episcopal Bishop Edward L. Parsons, Dr. A. A. Brill, honorary chairman of the American Psychoanalytic Assn., the head of the Missouri State Grange, the president of the Yonkers Board of Education, James T. Shotwell, president of the League of Nations Assn., and two Brooklyn College leaders of the Tau Alpha Omega fraternity. One of its prime movers was Osmond K. Fraenkel, chairman of the Appeals Board of the New York Welfare Department.

But these names represent only a tiny fraction of the long list of liberals and conservatives who went to bat for Tom Mooney; the bulk of Browder supporters are groups identified with the Communists in the past.

Behind the national drive is the "Citizens' Committee to Free Earl Browder," 1133 Broadway, which has many state and local branches. Its key national officers are Mooney, who has moved closer and closer to the Communist party since his release, and such party wheelhorses or apologists as Louis Weinstock, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, Robert W. Dunn and William Albertson.

The backbone of its support is left-wing CIO and AFL union leaders. Thus, the National Maritime Union, which calls the Communist party simply "a minority anti-Fascist party" in its plea for Browder's freedom, has done a yeomanlike job. So far, it has obtained Free Browder resolutions, some of them purportedly unanimous, from the crews of 8 American merchant vessels, the last two being the S.S. Michael Tracey and the S.S. Yankee Sword.

In effect, the Daily Worker is the committee's mouthpiece.

Padding the List.

To pad the list, it's not unusual for the Worker to announce a pledge of support one day from the president of a union, say the fur workers, another day from the executive board, a third day from other officials and on succeeding days from various locals.

The Communist tactic of counting the noses of "affiliated members" also is used. Thus, the Greater New York Industrial Union Council, representing "more than 500,000 CIO unionists" in New York City, wants Browder freed. But many of the CIO unionists, for example the New York Newspaper Guild members, were never consulted about it.

The current program is to concentrate, by wired pleas to the President, on his birthday ball Friday and, after that, on Lincoln's birthday.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

FAIR ENOUGH

By WESTBROOK PEGLER

What They Are

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—Communists? No, they're not Communists.

They are—

Well, take, for example, an economic genius named Harold Loeb, who is identified by the Dies committee as a "senior business specialist" on the staff of Leon Henderson, the price administrator, who has just been authorized to ration all goods sold at retail.

Mr. Loeb and Mr. Henderson were interested in technocracy some years ago and Mr. Loeb wrote a book about technocracy in which he said, "Our case would be hopeless if the profit system could be made to work." Mr. Henderson was a member of the technocracy committee, one of whose early statements said that if technocracy were adopted "all social, political and economic theories of the present must be thrown away," but a little over a year later he resigned from the committee, rejecting technocracy. Mr. Loeb's book, however, was published two years after that, in 1935, and in 1936, he wrote another called "Production For Use." He is not a businessman, by trade, of course. He does it by ear.

Other Books

Mr. Loeb is quite an author. His other works include one called "Doodab," dedicated "to Kitty," published in 1925; "Tumbling Mustard," dedicated "to Poke," published in 1929, and "Professors Like Vodka," one of those roguish Parisian things, which came out in 1927 and was dedicated to—you'd never guess.

This tasty little tale, so revealing of the man who is now, above all available American believers in the American system, selected as a "senior business specialist" for price administration in a nation at war, was dedicated to "my friend Malcolm Cowley," who is—

A poet, deemed to be, among all Americans, the best man available for an $8,000 job in the office of facts and figures, and an old political comrade of William Z. Foster and James W. Ford, who were, respectively, the presidential and vice presidential candidates of the Communist party. Comrade Ford, being a Negro, was selected as an incitation to civil commotion among the colored population, north and south, and Mr. Cowley, who, of course, is not and never was a Communist, himself, indorsed this ticket.

His Old Associates

He also was a member of the national executive committee of the American League against War and Fascism, whose directorate included Earl Browder, late chief of the Communist party and now a prisoner in Atlanta, and Clarence Hathaway, late editor of the Communists' official organ in New York. Mr. Loeb's friend, Malcolm Cowley, poet and expert compiler of facts and figures at $8,000 a year, to be paid, in part, out of the income taxes of the 7,000,000 new eligibles in income brackets as low as $14.50 a week, later went along with the League Against War and Fascism, when, because of the excessive heat generated by the popular anti-Communist sentiment of the country, it changed its name to the American League for Peace and Democracy.

Even then, of course, Mr. Cowley was not a Communist, although there were Communists all about him and with him, nor had he succumbed, when, in 1936, his name appeared on the list of sponsors of a banquet to Mother Ella Reeve Bloor, a well-known Communist relic, who, incidentally, has a son in the present government service, who, of course, is not a Communist himself.

Wrote for Sunday Worker

Nor could you have called Mr. Cowley a Communist even when, in 1935, The Sunday Worker, the official organ in New York, advertised him as a contributing member of the staff, although you might have been tempted to this judgment had you known that the Worker commonly excludes nonmembers from its employ and asserts the right to censor all copy in the interest of the party.

Loose and idle talk about Communists, Communists, Communists is going to do no good whatever, except for Japan and Germany, by causing disunity on the home front where the noted author, Mr. Loeb, has revealed his great but unsuspected capacity for government powers over American business and Mr. Cowley, a poet by trade, surprises everyone by his indispensability as a fact-and-figure man at $8,000 a year.

But if you want to be a dirty Quisling and a disrupter, go ahead and read false meaning into past expressions of such patriotic men, so devoted to the capitalistic system, under which, alone, in all the world, exist those freedoms for which this nation fights, impugn their old motives and their present matchless talents for government, and thereby help the enemy win the war.

Do you think Mr. Henderson would have a Communist around or Mr. Cowley's boss, Mr. MacLeish? If you do you are a dirty Quisling.

New Masses
New York, N. Y.

Browder and the Abolitionists

To NEW MASSES: Boston has ever been among the foremost communities to defend victims of any miscarriage of justice. That is why Col. Thomas Wentworth Higginson's championing of the fugitive slave Anthony Burns, whom reactionary judges sought to return to slavery in 1853, provides such a glorious episode in American history. The episode eternally reminds the Negro people of the heroic, self-sacrificing assistance which the Abolitionists of the nineteenth century gave to their own effort to achieve freedom from the oppressive bonds of chattel slavery and to win the status of American citizenship which they now enjoy. The entire record of Earl Russell Browder, his devotion to the struggle to save Angelo Herndon from a cruel and unusually severe sentence and to save the lives of the Scottsboro boys, as well as his persistent and outspoken condemnation of all abuses of the democratic rights of the Negro people guaranteed by our federal Constitution and the Bill of Rights, have won for him the respect of all defenders of the liberties of the common people, Negro and white. His democratic spirit was manifested by the fact that a Negro, James W. Ford, was his running mate when he was the candidate of his party for President of the United States in the 1940 campaign.

By reason of singleness of aim and fidelity to what he believes, Mr. Browder has earned the indisputable right to be considered as a twentieth-century Abolitionist, a relentless foe of Hitler slavery, a tireless champion of the rights of the Negro people to enjoy equal opportunities for development to meet the highest demands of American citizenship. I, therefore, as a Negro citizen of the Bay State, urge the immediate release of Earl Russell Browder.

WILLIAM HARRISON,
Associate Editor, Boston Chronicle.

Boston.

52a-1942

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Harlem Rally Says Free Browder, Cheers His Fights for Negro People

FEB 28 1942

Negro Woman Leader Says, 'We'll Keep on Fighting' Until Jail Doors Open; Assemblyman Speaks

"I was a little black girl in a South Carolina cotton patch before I was a Republican," declared Mrs. Angelina Blocker, president of the Loyal Women of America, at the Park Palace, 110th St. and Fifth Ave., Thursday night, "and if the Republican Party don't like my getting up here and speaking in behalf of freeing Earl Browder, then it can put me out, if it wants to.

Waiting for a break in the applause and in the shouts of approval, the unsmiling, dignified Negro woman, characterized by Miss Audley Moore, chairman of the meeting of the All-Harlem Citizens Committee to Free Earl Browder, as "another Sojourner Truth," Mrs. Blocker added that **"any white man who would do for black folks what Earl Browder did for Angelo Herndon and the Scottsboro boys ought to have the thanks and the prayers of every Negro in America."**

FEB 28 1942

FOUGHT JIM-CROW

"Why did I come here, and I a black woman and a Republican?" Mrs. Blocker began. "I am here representing 500 Negro women organized since June to help the white boys and the black boys to win the war. Studying Earl Browder's history, I found out he went right into the South—right into Georgia and Alabama—to help black folks. When he saved a black man from the chain-gang in Georgia he saved a black man from hell.

FEB 28 1942

"That's one reason I'm here. When any white man goes to Georgia or South Carolina or Alabama to help one of my race, I'm for him. That's why I'm here."

Congressman Vito Marcantonio, scheduled as a speaker, wired his regrets from Washington and urged redoubled efforts to free Browder.

She observed that "the American blacks need Browder more than you whites, anyway," because, she explained, "we need any white man who'll bury himself and his own interests in working for an oppressed people like us."

ASSEMBLYMAN SPEAKS

Mrs. Blocker, just before closing, bowed to Elizabeth Gurley Flynn and pleaded with her to train "some young girl to go along with you, so she can take up where you leave off." Any woman who, like Miss Flynn, she said, could organize such a tremendous movement as the Free Browder Committee, was a great woman. As for herself, she concluded, she and her 500 women were **"going to raise the devil until we free Earl Browder."**

Another Negro speaker who aroused fiery enthusiasm in an auditorium so cold that the audience sat huddled in overcoats and wraps, was Assemblyman Hulan E. Jack, of the 17 A.D., whose telegram of regret had been read just a few minutes previously. He had had to send the telegram, he said, because he had got a wire ordering him to report for a meeting of the OCD. As soon as he could get away, he said, he had hastened to the Free Browder rally.

"Today, more than ever, we need unity," Mr. Jack declared. "Today we need more than ever to write off those mistakes we made in the days of hysteria. The jailing of Earl Browder was a tragic mistake."

FEB 28 1942

FORD SAYS APPEASERS KEEP BROWDER IN JAIL

Declaring that the appeasers who are destroying national unity and obstructing the war effort are the very same ones who insist on Earl Browder's continued imprisonment, James W. Ford, noted Negro leader, appealed to American workers to liberate the anti-fascist fighter.

More than 150 workers at the Croatian Club Thursday night cheered Ford's account of Browder's leadership in anti-fascist struggle.

"It is a shame on America," he said, "that Earl Browder is still in jail. The people have the right to ask why Lindbergh is allowed to run about spreading odious fifth column poison. Why did Laura Ingalls get such a light sentence? Why is Hamilton Fish allowed to make treasonous statements in Congress?"

FEB 28 1942

TASK FOR ALL

The freedom of Browder is not the task of a few, Ford said, but of all Americans who want to win the war.

Pointing to Browder's estimation of the menace of Japanese imperialism in the Far East and Hitlerism in Europe as far back as 1935 and his call for collaboration of the United States, China and the Soviet Union, Ford declared, "America needs Browder's political understanding and leadership at present."

FEB 28 1942

Robert Barri, assistant editor of L'Unita del Popolo, pointed out that the mistake of Browder's imprisonment can be corrected by releasing him immediately.

"Italian-Americans know what it means to have their best sons imprisoned and put to death by the tyrants in Rome," he said. "They are determined that Earl Browder be freed."

FEB 28 1942

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

New 'Daily' Newscast on Tonight, 9:45

MAR 1 - 1942

Ben Davis to Launch WHOM Program, Budenz Ill

Ben Davis, Jr., member of the Daily Worker editorial board, tonight will inaugurate the new series of nightly broadcasts sponsored by this paper at 9:45 P. M. over WHOM (1480 kc).

In changing the time of the "Labor's Newsroom" broadcasts to 9:45 (they were formerly heard at 11 P.M.) the Daily Worker both increases the length of its broadcasting time and makes it more convenient for a greater number of people to hear the newscasts at the earlier hour.

MAR 1 - 1942

Louis F. Budenz, president of the Freedom of the Press Co., Inc., publishers of the Daily and Sunday Worker will resume his nightly broadcasts as soon as he recovers from a cold.

The new schedule of broadcasts will present "Labor's Newsroom" every night instead of five nights weekly as previously.

Beginning next week, Mr. Budenz will present his interpretive news summary Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday nights. The Tuesday night broadcast will feature Labor's Newsroom's presentation of "The Topic of the Week," a discussion by headline guest speakers.

MAR 1 - 1942

Mr. Davis will present a news commentary every Wednesday.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Whither Goest The Communist?

NOT many moons ago the Communists were climbing over everything and everybody to champion the Negro's cause. They were willing to turn heaven and the other place over; to liquidate all the capitalists; to deprecate the property of the "ruling class"; to outlaw religion, if need be, all for the benefit of the American Negroes whom they contended were being denied every vestige of right afforded by a democracy.

Strange as it may seem, their offer was so attractive that few Negroes fell for it. Afraid, perhaps. That was true in view of the fact that there were few other inducements that could have been offered by the wealthy that were withheld by the Communists. That was true, despite the fact that the colored people were in the midst of the throes of the worst depression that America had known and they were at the lowest ebb of the economic scale. In the cities they were ousted from their homes with careless abandon and with the same abandon the Communists moved them back. They were made the victims of strange and unusual types of discrimination. In the country and on the farms the AAA program had uprooted the sharecropping system and had converted the sharehand into a day worker who shuffled for himself when the harvest was over. That meant that he was without shelter during several months of the year.

Despite all of these hardships the Negroes stuck to their guns and held the view that Communism was not a good thing and that it would not work. It took a long time before they had anything factual to lean on to support this conservative, tongue-in-the-cheek view. But, alas! it came. It came when Hitler and Stalin locked arms, hugged, kissed, and made up. Their reconciliation was climaxed by the non-aggression pact. Prior to that time the American Communists had been condemning Hitler and everything that he stood for. But as soon as they could twist some words and qualify some principles that they had made previously—this took about three whole days from the signing of the pact—they were for the Hitler-Stalin deal, tooth and nail. Now, as for the lukewarm fellow traveler, that was just too much for those who bore that status left the ship. The ardent Communist was befuddled, complexed, and frustrated and if you view his present position he is still punchdrunk.

The Negro who had maintained his tongue-in-cheek nonchalant attitude laughed right out of turn and has been laughing ever since. He laughed again when that Hitler-Stalin courtship exploded violently with a breach of promise act which substituted treacherous guns and planes and tanks for love and kisses.

Now the Communists, still staggering from Negro, of course, laughs some more—right out press for your rights now." The American can Negro: "wait until war is over. Don't conservative after all.

JUL 5 1942

JUL 3 1942

52a-1942
New York Age
New York, N. Y.

THE COMMUNIST REPLY

IN A LETTER to the editor last week, Ben Davis Jr., a member of the editorial board of the Daily Worker, replied to our recent editorial on "Communism and the Negro." Although our editorial was less than a column in length, Mr. Davis took three times as much space to explain his paper and party's attitude on the Negro.

The occasion for our editorial was the failure of the Daily Worker and Communist Party to support the Madison Square Garden mass meeting of the March on Washington Committee. In his reply, Mr. Davis refers to his open letter to A. Philip Randolph, which appeared in the June 14 issue of the Daily Worker and said:

"Our letter assisted the Negro people and the meeting by doing what certain Norman Thomas Socialists in the sponsorship of the meeting tried to avoid doing: it showed the Negro people their relationship to the war and pointed out that their won special demands are to be won through the proscecution of the war to victory. This was highly beneficial to the meeting for none of these political bedfellows of the Norman Thomas Socialists dared to insult the Negro people by using a meeting of theirs to denounce the war against the "Jeff Davis" of Berlin. There was no red-baiting speeches at the Garden Rally to disrupt the Negro people's unity."

Mr. Randolph happens to be a Socialist and it appears to us that Mr. Davis and his associates condemned the meeting in advance for this reason and this reason alone. They did not want to see it put over in a big way because it would redound to the credit of Randolph and his fellow Socialists. We submit that this is a narrow and prejudiced point of view; that even though the movement was initiated bf a Socialist it was nonetheless a good cause and should have had the support of all who were interested in the securing for the Negro those rights of citizenship guaranteed him by the Constitution.

And if the purpose of Mr. Davis' open letter was to aid the meeting, this purpose could hav been accomplished by a much more direct method—the publishing of a release or advertisement on the program and purposes of the meeting.

It's common knowledge that the Communist Party and the Daily Worker did an "about-face" after Russia's entry into the war on the side of the allied nations in June, 1941. Prior to that time, both the party and its newspaper had denounced the war as "imperialistic" and had trod close to the shores of sedition in their advocacy that the masses had nothing to gain from such a war. As a matter of fact, the Communists had become such a disrupting influence to national unity that the government had begun to jail their leaders on various pretexts in order to destroy their influence. That was the real reason Earl Browder was sent to jail.

The masses of Negroes cannot understand why if the war was "imperialistic" at the start it should suddenly became a holy crusade upon the entrance of Russia into active participation in the conflict. They cannot unerdstand why the Daily Worker suddenly dropped its fight for freedom of the Scottsboro boys, its fight in behalf of the sharecroppers of the South and has considerably toned down its agitation for the abolition of the poll tax and other causes which it originally sponsored, and is now telling the people that by winning the war we will gain these things.

Despite the length of Mr. Davis' letter, he failed to explain this changed attitude on the part of the Communist Party and until there is an explanation the sincerity of their efforts in behalf of the Negro will remain in doubt.

Plan To Sabotage Negro Rights, Says Call Publication

"The Informer"
Houston Tex.
AUG 1 1942

WASHINGTON. — (ANP) — Charging that the present administration and the Communists have joined in an effort to sabotage Negro rights, the "Call," official publication of the Socialist party in New York, takes them to task for an attempted obliteration of the growing March on Washington.

"From the moment the Soviet Union was invaded," the writer states, "American Communists began to sabotage the fight against racial discrimination. As agents of Soviet foreign policy, their whole purpose became the speeding of military aid to Dictator Stalin. Their purpose became not to 'win the war' in the sense of victory for all oppressed people or even victory for the united nations. When American Communists talk about 'winning the war,' they mean helping Stalin no matter what the cost to democracy or to any other aspect of the war.

"To steer Negro sentiment away from the winning of equal rights to the winning of the war for Stalin, Communists have organized a new front, the 'Negro Labor Victory Committee.' Typically, the Communists picked a name similar to that of a well-established organigation. In this case, they sought to confuse the new front with the Negro Labor committee, which, under the leadership of Frank Crosswaith has had the support of non-Communist labor movement in New York since 1925.

"On June 28, the Communist 'victory' committee ran a mass meeting in Harlem to offset the rally of the March on Washington great Madison Square garden movement. As principal speaker, they were able to obtain Paul V. McNutt, Chairman of the War Manpower commission and one of the half-dozen most important men in the Roosevelt administration. McNutt's co-star at the meeting was Rep. Marcantonio, Communist errand boy in congress. A message was read from Stephen Early, Roosevelt's secretary.

"McNutt appeared despite the protests of A. Phillip Randolph, director of the March on Washington movement and president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, and other recognized leaders. It was reported from Washington that McNutt had 'checked' with Archibald Mac Leish's late Office of Facts and Figures before accepting the engagement.

"The second evidence of administration collaboration with Communists came the day before Odell Waller was executed. It is reported from Washington that a Communist delegation which included Max Yergan of the National Negro congress and other Stalinists saw Atty. Gen. Biddle at his home, while a delegation headed by A. Philip Randolph saw only a couple of Biddle's assistants.

"For more than two years, while the Workers Defense league strove to obtain justice for Waller, the Communists maintained complete silence on the case. However, a week before Waller was executed, Negro sentiment was so aroused that it became clear to the Communists that they would have to say something about Waller in order to gain the ear of the Negroes for their own propaganda.

"But when the Communists spoke, they did not denounce the murders of Waller, iinstead they slandered Waller's defenders for trying to create national disunity."

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

THIS MORNING



by JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES, II

"Approach thou like the rugged Russian bear . . ."

* * *

"Mission to Moscow" is going to be made into a movie and that is fine. The script is to be prepared by Erskine Caldwell—and that is not so fine. Granting Mr. Caldwell dramatic talent and a recent knowledge of Russia, he could be, nevertheless, the very last man to be allowed to touch this cinema. And for the very things granted him, if he is as hot-headedly sympathetic with the Russian system as many presume him to be.

* * *

The point of Mr. Davies' book for Americans is double. It is that the Russians are abler, sounder and finer people than we have been thinking. It is also that the Russians are turning away from Communism. Mr. Caldwell will get the first point. Will he forget the second?

* * *

"The Russia of Lenin and Trotsky—the Russia of the Bolshevik Revolution — no longer exists," wrote Mr. Davies in his now famous book. "Through gradual, stern and often cruel evolution that government has developed into what is now a system of state socialism operating on capitalist principles and steadily and irresistibly swinging to the right. Concessions had to be made to human nature, in order to make the experiment work." Mr. Davies went on then to make the most interesting statement in his book. "The swing toward the left after this war will be acute. There will be real danger that it will be too rapid and violent. It would not surprise me if the experience derived as a result of the Russian Revolutionary experiment will act as a brake upon this tendency."

* * *

There is no drama in a brake. The dramatist of "Tobacco Road" is hardly likely to look for any. There is no revolution in it, either. Will the revolution in Erskine Caldwell's soul reject it for that?

* * *

The moving picture people have something more than a best-seller for screening in this case. They have a document of great social, economic, political, and military significance, whose significance will be growing as we go on with the war and will multiply when peacetime comes and the world is being put in order. The great issue then is going to be socialism against free enterprise (granting that free enterprise will not again be given enough freedom to hang itself). If the testimony of Mr. Davies' book is that socialism doesn't work, and that Russian turning away from it is a proof that it doesn't work even when given every political chance, then that testimony is entitled to go before the movie-going millions of America.

* * *

Industrious, humanitarian, intelligent Mr. Caldwell will not lack for jobs if this one is taken away from him. We rather hope it will be.

* * *

Russia is our ally, making the best fight of all. The fact properly limits the tactics we can use against the Communism that once existed in Russia and that is claimed still to exist. But that makes an extra task of opposing Communism in other ways. The obvious way is propaganda for our system.

* * *

There is a Russian propaganda which can do our country great good both now and hereafter. It is propaganda for qualities of mind, heart and soul the Russians have showed in this war, and for the passionate devotion they have for their institutions and ways. Americans need those things. We were sick men before this war, devoted to nothing much, full of so many hates, doubts, pessimisms and negations that there was no health in us. But there will continue to be hereafter as heretofore another Russian propaganda which we must oppose. That is propaganda for the collectivist against the free enterprise way.

* * *

We can fight it by fighting for and believing in our system. It shouldn't be hard. The brave show the Russians are making with their qualities as men could not have been made if not implemented with the products of American free enterprise. What has enabled Russia to fight this war is the magnificent industrialism she learned from America and has installed for her by Americans. What enables her to go on fighting is deliveries and promised deliveries from American plants. Let this never be forgotten. Russia's soul for this war is her matchless own, but Russia's substance is in many respects a product of American free enterprise.

Rome, Ga. News-Tribune
July 10, 1942

Wise Leaders Disregarded

There are a lost of sensible Negroes in the country and it is a deeply unfortunate thing that the radical elements are in the saddle, cooperating with equally radical elements among the politically-minded in Washington.

There was a meeting in Harlem the other day that was denounced by leading Harlem Negroes as Communistic and not representative of the great body of Negroes, yet it was attended by a prominent member of the Administration, Paul McNutt, who spoke in spite of the protests of Negroes who are not Communists.

The presence of McNutt called forth loud hurrahs from the Communistic organ, The Daily Worker, which makes no disguise even today of its loyalty to the cause of the Reds.

Just as the better element of the Negroes in Harlem are against this thing of encouraging Communism, so the great majority of leaders among Negroes in the South are opposed to what is being attempted in this quarter by advocates of social equality between the races.

These Negroes know that these misguided zealots and these tools of the Communists are sowing dragon's teeth, and that if they are not checked serious trouble will follow, yet their views are over ridden and the trouble-makers continue on their way.

Southern members of the Congress can serve the South, the Nation and the better element of the colored race by demanding that governmental officials discontinue the practice of lending encouragement to these elements when they should be giving their full time to winning the war, rather than to the creation of conditions that complicate the efforts to rally the Nation in this time of peril.

Sheffield, Ala., Tri-Cities Daily
July 22, 1942

McNutt and the Negroes

We do not feel that Paul McNutt did any good for himself, the negroes or the war effort when he persisted in addressing a New York negro mass meeting which was denounced by reputable Harlem spokesmen as an unrepresentative Communist-dominated affair.

The Social Security director was the feature, of course. The Communist Party's official Daily Worker gloated over his cooperation. On the platform with him was Congressman Vito Marcantonio, who opposed our fight against the Axis—until Hitler attacked Russia—so bitterly that he was the only member of the House to vote against the first defense bill, and then became an equally violent anti-Hitlerite.

We can give all-out military help to Russia without assisting the Communist Party in its subversive policy of wooing negro sympathy as a step toward provoking future racial disturbances.

Tallahassee, Fla.
July 6, 1942

McNutt and the Negroes

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Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

COMMUNISTS FILE FOR THREE OFFICES

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Aug. 17—(AP)—Communist party nominees for governor, state senator from Jefferson County and representative from the Ninth (Jefferson) Congressional District qualified with Secretary of State John Brandon Monday for participation in the Nov. 3 general election.

Ordway Southard was entered as a candidate for governor; Mary Boggs Southard for state senator, and Rob F. Hall, for Congress. Their candidacies were filed by Hall as party secretary for District 17, comprising Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi. All were listed as residents of Jefferson County.

The qualification papers said the candidates were nominated at a party caucus in Birmingham Aug. 11, of which Mary Boggs Southard was chairman.

The Communist party entered a full slate of candidates for presidential electors in 1940, the leading candidate, John W. Campbell, receiving 509 votes. In 1938 Hall ran for state senator—the only Communist candidate on the ticket for that gubernatorial election year—and polled 36 votes, according to records of the secretary of state.

52a-1942

WHAT ARE WE FIGHTING FOR?

"The Courier-Journal" Louisville Ky.

By HERBERT AGAR.

New York.

RUSSIA is our hope and our admiration today. But how many of us will remember these feelings later on? If Russia begins to beat the Germans, our enemies will whisper to beware of her because she wants to run the world. If Russia shows signs of collapse, our enemies will whisper to beware of her because she is a false ally. In either case the hopes for man's future will be diminished if we listen to such dividing talk.

If the Axis barbarians are beaten by the army of civilization, Russia will be the only great power in the world devoted to the cause of communism. China, Britain, the United States, India if she surmounts her inner factionalism; these will be the other main centers of power. None of them is communist; none is showing any present tendency to become communist. Whence this fear that Russia will dominate the world?

Do we think the Russians are so much smarter than anyone else that they are bound to get their way? Do we think that communism is so much better than our present system that we must adopt it even though we fear it and seek to avoid it? Or are we secretly afraid that a myth is taking hold of men's minds, a myth of collectivism as the only way out, so that communism will spread when the war is over whether it be good or bad?

•

THE latter is the most likely explanation of many people's attitude toward Russia. It explains the combination of intense desire that Russia shall do well, so as to save us years of woe, with an equally intense desire that she shall not do too well, so as to become the world's hero. We seem to be afraid that communism is getting a magic hold on men's minds.

If that is what we fear, we should be able to calm ourselves with a little thinking. Our economic system in America is a mixture of old-fashioned capitalism, plus some monopoly capitalism, plus some state socialism, plus a growing use of the cooperative technique, plus many other minor ingredients. The purpose of this economic system is to supply the physical basis for the American way of life.

The American way of life means freedom and neighborliness and a sense of brotherhood among peoples; it means the democratic virtues of tolerance and respect for others. These things are fundamental principles in our society. The hope for a world in which these things are possible is the basic American desire. But these things are not possible unless we all have enough to eat, and something left over for social and cultural life.

Our economic system, therefore, has got to supply enough to eat, and something left over; and it has got to do it without destroying freedom, and neighborliness, and the other qualities which make the American dream. If we remember these facts we will find there is no reason to be scared of communism, or of any other proposal for the future.

•

IF COMMUNISM could meet these requirements, if it could supply us with sufficient goods and services without destroying our freedom and democracy, there would be no reason to shun communism. Since it seems that communism cannot do this, that the price of sufficient goods under communism is the loss of freedom and democracy, there is no reason to think we shall be such fools as to adopt it.

So far, nobody has found a way of curing the great flaw in communism: that a state which controls all property, and thus all jobs, inevitably becomes a tyrant state. If the state is the universal master, the citizens become slaves. If the Russians can find a way out of this dilemma, we need no longer fear communism. If they can't find a way out of this dilemma, we shall never be attracted to communism. Instead, we shall insist on improving the system we have got, to make it serve our purpose. So what are we afraid of?

Why not let ourselves enjoy wholeheartedly our admiration for Russia's amazing stand and our desire to see her completely victorious?

Negro Newspaper Sees Rally Sunday As Red-Inspired

Not 'Mouthpiece Of Race,' Editor Says —McNutt to Speak

By FREDERICK WOLTMAN,
World-Telegram Staff Writer.

The Negro Labor Victory mass rally Sunday, which is featuring Paul V. McNutt, head of the President's War Manpower Commission, as its principal speaker, is denounced in the current issue of the Amsterdam Star-News, New York's leading Negro newspaper, for representing itself to be a "mouthpiece of the Negro people."

The paper's column, Labor's Front, cites it as the latest of a series of labor and social organizations that spring up in Harlem, "take advantage" of the Negro by "golden promises," then "flim-flam their way through life using him as a goat."

Plans Expose.

J. Robert Smith, labor editor of the Amsterdam Star-News, told the World-Telegram today he has proof that the Negro Labor Victory Committee is engineered by the American Communists. He said it does not represent the legitimate Negro organizations, adding that he intends to expose it in subsequent editions.

In his column Mr. Smith says he looks "with much disfavor" on what he calls "these jive set-ups" but they are protected by the law of free speech and assembly. "But," he continues, "when these organizations, labeling themselves as the mouthpiece of the Negro people, make representations to city and national officials, then that is taking the ball completely out of bounds."

The so-called victory committee has arranged for Mr. McNutt's speech to be broadcast over WJZ and a national hookup Sunday.

Called Spurious.

Every day the Daily Worker plays up Mr. McNutt's promised appearance at the rally. The other well-known speakers on the program with him were violently opposed to the national defense program and the British side of the war until June 22 a year ago.

As far back as April 18, it was learned, the Negro Labor Victory Committee was attacked as a "spurious" and "carpetbagging" Communist organization by Frank R. Crosswaith, new Negro member of the City Housing Authority.

Mr. Crosswaith charged it had appropriated the name of the Negro Labor Committee which has been in existence since 1925 and is supported by the principal non-Communist AFL and CIO unions in New York.

Methods Used.

"Perhaps in no section of Negro life, in our efforts to improve our lot, have the Communists done more harm than in the field of Negro labor," he wrote in the Amsterdam Star-News.

Using the names of Negro union leaders without authorization, he stated, the committee is the latest example of how "the Communists have worked most tirelessly to capture the Negro labor movement and swerve our natural aspirations for justice and orderly social and economic progress into Communist channels."

Last week A. Philip Randolph, president of the AFL Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and head of the march - on - Washington movement for Negro rights, made a similar charge against the committee. At the time, the World-Telegram asked Mr. McNutt's Washington office for comment.

No reply has been received to date.

declaring that they must wake up "to the realities of a dangerous world" and stop "playing around with old class-prejudices which endanger our victory."

The Communists, for the first time in years, failed to fill Madisonn Square Garden completely, but they did have an enthusiastic, cheering crowd of 17,000, who paid from 25 cents to $1.10 for admission, apart from the usual collection taken up between speeches.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

NOV 2 1942

COMMUNIST CANDIDATES AT MEETING HERE YESTERDAY



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New York Times
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Score Bennett, Too, but Hail Willkie as Great Liberal at Rally in Garden

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The tone of the rally represented a distinct departure from the Communist party line at the start of the campaign, when the trend was to attack John J. Bennett Jr., the Democratic nominee, and to "go easy" on Dewey. At yesterday's rally Mr. Dewey was the arch-enemy, being represented as a potential focal point for appeasement groups, a man whose supporters in the Legislature had blocked anti-discrimination measures and bills to provide child care so that mothers could enter war production.

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The Communist nominees for State office are Israel Amter for Governor and Elizabeth Gurley Flynn and Benjamin J. Davis Jr. for Representatives at large.

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"Running on Dewey's ticket, with no active opposition from the Axis poison cused of spreading of the designed to sabotage the mind of America." He declared that "the nation must remove from control of its newspapers all those men who spread defeatism and appeasement."

Mr. Browder devoted the major tacked, the support given to State t of his address to an attack on Senator Frederic R. Coudert Jr., Chicago Tribune, The New York TIMES, The rk Daily News, and The Wash- by THE NEW YORK TIMES. The ton Times-Herald, which he ac- Herald Tribune and even our progressive Mayor La Guardia,

Program for Harlem A Vital War Necessity

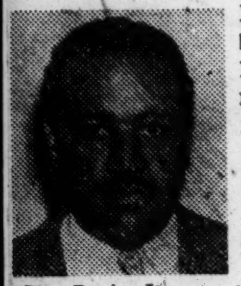
Daily Worker N.Y., N.Y.
SEP 16 1942
5-30-42
SEP 16 1942

By Benjamin J. Davis, Jr.

Executive Secretary, Upper Harlem Communist Party

The necessities of the war throw into bold relief all the jim crow evils from which the Negro people of Harlem suffer and emphasize how these evils are diametrically opposed to the vital, patriotic and noble objectives for which we are fighting to crush Hitlerism.

We see the urgency of remedying Harlem conditions, not alone in justice to the Negro people as equal citizens, but also as a war necessity. And this is wholly possible. Long has Harlem, its Negro, white and Latin American minorities, suffered from unemployment, discrimination, extortionate rentals, slums, inadequate health and school facilities, curtailed civil liberties, lack of adequate municipal, legislative and Congressional representation. The worst of these evils has been unemployment.



Ben Davis, Jr.

Harlem conditions were highlighted by the report of the Mayor's Commission following the March 19 outbreak in 1935, more recently by the City-Wide Citizens Committee on Harlem, by labor and outstanding community leaders, and by the Harlem Communist Party which has tirelessly crusaded against these conditions, at the same time seeking to mobilize and unite all community organizations with labor and white progressives throughout the city in the cause. It is now obvious to all honest citizens that the problems of Harlem are economic and that their solution must, in the first place, enlist the active initiative of labor, fair-minded white citizens, the City Administration as well as the Negro people.

SEP 16 1942

SCOTTSBORO CONSPIRACY

The continuing existence of these discriminatory conditions has invited all anti-Negro and now unpatriotic forces to fish in Harlem's troubled waters. Recently, there have been numerous indiscriminate beatings and shootings by policemen and this outbreak has resulted in the killing of four Negroes as "muggers" or as so-called "mugger suspects."

A virtual Scottsboro frame-up took place against eight Negro youths which was effectively exposed through the alertness of the Daily Worker, the Communist Party of Harlem and an aroused community. Consequently, four Negro boys had to be freed. But four of them are indicted on the same rape charges, although the alleged white victims, Charles and Ann Coleman, have both issued public statements that they were unable to identify any of the boys who allegedly committed crimes against them. The charges against these boys are so thoroughly unsupported that they should collapse. The authorities are left entirely to whatever "confessions" they can beat out of these boys for so-called evidence.

The two papers which have been leading the smear campaign against Harlem—that is, against the whole community—are the Daily News and the World-Telegram, both defeatist publications presently engaged in an underhanded campaign against President Roosevelt and the nation's war program. Both publications are notoriously anti-Negro.

The Daily News, for example, first blared the lynch cry of "rape" against the wronged Negro boys in the Coleman case. Moreover, the very fact that the Daily News succeeded in interfering with the publication of an issue of "People's Voice," edited by Councilman Adam Powell, because that paper attacked the Daily News' lurid rape stories shows how directly concerned the Negro people are in fighting the fifth columnists.

DANGER TO WAR

The defeatists are attempting to make use of the city's police department to carry through a campaign of disunity by means of brutality and terror against Negroes. The aim is to divide the Negro people and to break up the alliance of the Negro with labor and the win-the-war city and national administrations.

SEP 16 1942

The hooligan seizure of the Democratic gubernatorial nomination by Farley and his stooge Bennett, in defiance of the President, labor and other win-the-war citizens, served to embolden all the Coughlinite nests which are anti-Semitic and anti-Negro; and it reemphasizes the necessity of cleansing the police department of whatever Coughlinite remnants are still there.

Otherwise, these die-hard cliques will hamper those progressive policies many times pronounced by Mayor LaGuardia and Commissioner Valentine. Therefore, as a practical matter, the Farley-Bennett camp emerges as the main enemy which must be defeated at all costs by the Negro people, in unison with other patriotic voters in New York—an objective which can be won only by voting outside the columns of the Republican and Democratic parties on Nov. 3.

That there is juvenile delinquency in Harlem no one will deny. Indeed, what can be expected among hundreds of Negro youths who develop in dead-end environments, imprisoned by poverty, hundreds of whom have walked the streets for months looking for jobs through which they might contribute to their country's war program. Many of these youths have become demoralized, have been forced into delinquency and petty crime and need rehabilitation. Above all, they need jobs and equal opportunities through which rehabilitation can be accomplished.

In his column of Sept. 5 in the Amsterdam News, Roy Wilkins, one of the leading officials of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, stresses the critical status of Harlem's juvenile delinquency. But his proposal, "Let heads be cracked and court sentences be heavy" only plays into the hands of the defeatists and helps to spread panic and hysteria through which these forces hope to [illegible] Harlem, incite racial tension and work mischief against the community.

SEP 16 1942

The Coleman case shows the dangerous character of the head-cracking policy, that it leads to frame-ups and wanton police brutality, aggravates the situation and endangers war unity. Because national unity is needed for victory, the Negro people, labor and progressives will not tolerate a revival of police brutality, any more than the people of Georgia would tolerate Talmadge and his "white supremacy" regime for another term.

HARLEM'S PROGRAM

Juvenile delinquency, along with the other justifiable grievances of the Negro people in Harlem, should be tackled with swiftness and in a spirit of unity of all win-the-war forces. Rent ceilings and rent control measures, price control observance, adequate health facilities and a thorough-going economic overhauling of Harlem should be undertaken at once. Above all, war jobs should be provided and energetic support of the campaign of Mayor LaGuardia, the CIO and the AFL to break down discrimination against New York in war contracts should be forthcoming in Harlem. A centralized national war economy, which will speedily enact President Roosevelt's seven-point economic plan, should be fought for.

But the unemployment, out of which Harlem's high rate of juvenile delinquency springs, cannot wait—the situation requires emergency measures of a constructive character, not police brutality. Rehabilitation and correction of erring and jobless Negro youth, through a plan which will be pegged to a program of jobs constitutes the sort of new approach which the war emergency requires. This program should be undertaken by the city and national administrations and a special probation apparatus participated in by labor and community organizations and leaders should be set up—with all working together for the good of Harlem and the prosecution of the war. Such a policy, embracing collaboration among progressive city authorities, war employment and training agencies, and the Harlem community, would rout the fifth columnists and Coughlinite cliques who hope to undermine the war by running down the Negro people of Harlem.

to Talk Over XR Tomorrow

What does the war mean fo the Negro people?

Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., Communist candidate for Representative-at-Large, speaks over Station WQXR tomorrow night at 10 o'clock on the win-the-war issues of the election campaign as they affect Negro New Yorkers.

Ready to Conduct Negotiations on Unity

AUG 31 1942 Daily Worker N.Y., N.Y.

AUG 31 1942 By MAC GORDON

The New York State convention of the Communist Party yesterday endorsed a full slate of Communist candidates nominated by a petition of 50,000 voters of the state. The endorsement took place at the final regular session of the convention at Manhattan Center, and was greeted by an enthusiastic fifteen minute demonstration of the 1,100 regular, alternate and fraternal delegates from all parts of the state.

The convention also decided to set up a committee which "even at this eleventh hour shall explore the possibilities of achieving the maximum possible unity with other patriotic groups around the crucial issues of the campaign." The members of the committee are Earl Browder, William Z. Foster, James W. Ford, Israel Amter, Gilbert Green, Peter V. Cacchione and Simon W. Gerson.

The report of the Nominations Committee of the convention that recommended this course to the convention stated that the gubernatorial candidacies of John J. Bennett and Thomas E. Dewey "represent forces in substantial opposition to the win-the-war policies of President Roosevelt."

CRUCIAL ISSUES

The American Labor Party's refusal to go along with the two major party candidates was "its minimum duty and a step in the right direction," the report declared. But it pointed out that there are no guarantees as yet that the ALP will work for unity of all forces around the crucial issues of the day—opening of a second front and establishment of a national war economy; nor that it would conduct an "unflinching" campaign against the "Copperhead-Farley forces now controlling the Democratic Party."

AUG 31 1942

Because these guarantees did not exist as yet, endorsement of the full slate was recommended, with the setting up of the committee to explore further.

Should the committee find that such guarantees are established and unity achieved, the Communist Party has until next Friday to take other steps with regard to its candidates who were officially placed on the ballot by the petition of 50,000 signatures filed with the Secretary of State's office in Albany last Friday.

AUG 31 1942

The Nominations Committee report was delivered by Benjamin J. Davis Jr., New York County chairman of the Communist Party and prominent Negro leader.

Candidates nominated on the state ticket are: Israel Amter, State chairman, for governor; Frank Herron, Erie County chairman, for lieutenant governor; Benjamin J. Davis Jr. for attorney general; Fred Briehl, Ulster County farm leader, for comptroller, and Robert Minor and Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, National Communist leaders, for representatives-at-large.

Earlier, the convention elected a state committee of forty members and twelve alternates, headed by Israel Amter and Gilbert Green, who were reelected as chairman and executive secretary respectively.

For the first time, three vice-chairmen were elected to the state organization. They are James W. Ford, nationally prominent Negro leader and thrice vice-presidential nominee on the Communist ticket; Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, Communist and veteran labor leader for the past three decades; and Fred Briehl. All elections were by acclamation. The report on Party offices was delivered by Al Lannon, State organization secretary.

A report by the committee on election campaign organization, delivered by Carl Vedro, set 150,000 votes for the Communist candidates as the goal in this election. Vedro outlined methods to be followed by the Communist Party branches to achieve this goal.

He was followed by Carl Brodsky, who reported on the radio program for the campaign. Brodsky reported that 16 broadcasts over WQXR have already been contracted for. These are to run every Tuesday and Thursday at 10 P. M. starting Sept. 10 right up through the night before election.

AUG 31 1942

Brodsky proposed as a slogan, "Listen at the 3Ts broadcast of the Communist Party, Tuesdays and Thursdays at Ten." Readers of the Daily Worker will recognize in this slogan the solution to the mysterious 3T ads that have appeared in the paper during the past week. The convention decided to publish both Vedro's and Brodsky's report. Other broadcasts throughout the state are being scheduled.

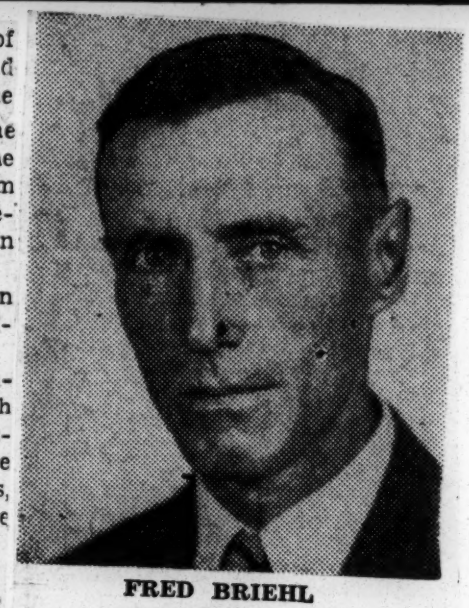
In an earlier session on Saturday evening, the convention adopted the report of the Platform Committee presented by Simon W. Gerson, State Election Campaign and Legislative Director of the Communist Party. The platform presents specific proposals for the solution of the many political, economic and social questions connected with the war effort. It centers around the need for mobilization of all the resources of the state for maximum war effort, and calls for the immediate opening of a second front in Europe.

AUG 31 1942

Keith Ayling, of the Manhattan Office of Civilian Defense, addressed the convention briefly.

A report of the credentials committee, delivered by Elizabeth Barker, Harlem Administrative Secretary, showed that there were 659 regular delegates, 258 alternates, and 192 fraternal delegates at the convention.

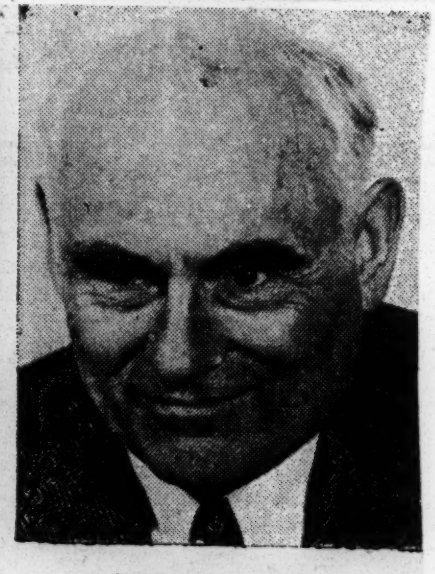
Gerson announced last night that meetings with upstate leaders are being held this week to complete plans for the campaign to win 150,000 votes in the state.



FRED BRIEHL
for
COMPTROLLER



ISRAEL AMTER
for
GOVERNOR



ROBERT MINOR
for
REPRESENTATIVE AT LARGE



BENJAMIN DAVIS, Jr.
for
ATTORNEY GENERAL



ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN
for
REPRESENTATIVE AT LARGE

Texas' Dies Pins "Red" Label On Bethune, Frazier And Pickens

OCT 3 - 1942

OCT 3 - 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 1—In a 90-minute tirade on the House floor, Thursday, during which he charged that a group of Government employees is operating a Communist front organization in Washington, while similar organizations are being financed by a $750,000 fund of which an Agriculture Department economist is a trustee, Representative Martin Dies of Texas brought in the names of three colored persons.

William Pickens, signer of the manifesto of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties on behalf of the Communist leader, Sam Darcy. Pickens is principal securities promotion specialist for the Treasury Department at a salary of $5,600.

OTHER AFFILIATIONS

His other alleged Communist affiliations were recorded as: vice-chairman of the American League Against War and Fascism, contributor to the New Masses, speaker for the Medical Bureau and North American Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy, speaker for the United American Spanish Aid Committee, sponsor of the Greater New York Emergency Conference on Inalienable Rights, sponsor of the American Committee for Protection of Foreign-Born, sponsor of the Spanish Refugee Relief Campaign, speaker for the United States Congress Against War, sponsor of the American Committee for Democracy and Intellectual Freedom. He declined to comment.

Dies also read into the record photostats of checks paid out by the $750,000 Robert Marshall Foundation before and after the war started to individuals and organizations and said some of these amounts included:

OCT 3 - 1942

National Negro Congress, $10,125; Southern Negro Youth Congress, $750; American Youth Congress, $10,250; National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, $14,250; Southern Conference for Human Welfare, $1,500. John P. Davis, executive secretary of the NNC, was out of the city and not available for comment.

Each of these, said Dies, had been "distinctly Communist or pro-Communist in their affiliations and policies."

These among others, he charged are affiliated with the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties or its District of Columbia Chapter, the Washington Committee for Democratic Action.

While accusing Attorney General Biddle of having made a "farce" of an investigation of the loyalty of some 1,100 Federal workers and urged that a House appropriations committee look into the probe, he said Biddle found both of the organizations mentioned above to be Communist fronts.

BETHUNE, FRAZIER, PICKENS

The Negroes listed as Government employees who had affiliated with the federation or the Washington Committee for Democratic Action included:

OCT 3 - 1942

Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, salary, $6,250, sponsor of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action. Dr. Bethune is director of the Division of Negro Affairs in the National Youth Administration; other so-called Communist affiliation of the director, Dies said, include: national vice-chairman of American League for Peace and Democracy, signer of Call for American Youth Congress, sponsor of the American Committee for Protection of Foreign-Born, sent greetings to National Negro Congress, and is sponsor of Spanish Refugee Relief Campaign.

Dr. E. Franklin Frazier, sponsor of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action; he is in the division of American Negro studies at a salary of $2,400; his other Communist affiliations are said to be: contributor to New Masses, speaker for the Negro Youth Conference, speaker for the American Youth Congress, signer of appeal for Negro People's Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy.

Knoxville, Tenn., Journal
September 25, 1942

19 On Federal Payroll Named 'Red Fronters'

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24 (AP)—Accusing the Justice Department of having failed to "carry out the mandate of Congress" to investigate subversiveness among Federal workers, Rep. Dies (D., Tex.) told the House today that numerous high-ranking government employes were affiliated with Communist-dominated organizations.

The chairman of the special committee investigating un-American activities named 19 employes he said were affiliated with the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties and "its District of Columbia chapter, the Washington Committee for Democratic Action," both of which he described as "Communist front organizations."

"The Attorney General has said so, and on the basis of overwhelming evidence we concur in the Attorney General's judgment," he said in explanation of his statement that the organizations were Communist front groups.

The employes named by Dies in his speech:

Hugh Miller, attorney for the Bituminous Coal Commission; Alice Barrows, specialist in the Office of Education; Harry C. Lambertson, attorney for the Rural Electrification Administration; Jay Deiss, Federal Security Agency; Milton V. Freeman, assistant solicitor for the Securities Commission; Eugene C. Holmes, consultant in the Office of War Information, Teresa Liss, assistant economic statistician in the Office of Price Administration; Woodrow J. Sandler, assistant attorney of the National Labor Relations Board; Helen Watman, law clerk for the Reconstruction Finance Corp.; Merle Vincent, director in the hearings branch of the Labor Department; Gardner Jackson, principal economist for the Agriculture Department; Henry T. Hunt, special assistant to the general counsel of the Federal Works Agency; Mary McLeod Bethune, director of the division of Negro affairs in the National Youth Administration; George Slaff, principal attorney for the Federal Power Commission; A. C. Shire, director of the technical division of the Federal Public Housing Authority; E. Franklin Frazier, Division of American Negro Studies; Robert Morss Lovett, secretary of the Virgin Islands; William Pickens, principal securities promotion specialist for the Treasury Department, and Edward Scheunemann, assistant attorney in the Denver Office of Price Administration.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Ben Davis J. Candidate Fo

Nov. 21, 1942

NEW YORK—Benjamin J. Davis Jr., son of the well-known Georgia politician, editor of the National Baptist Review, and a former member of the Republican National Committee, is a candidate for congressman-at-large from New York state on the Communist ticket.

Ben Davis Jr., who is a product of Morehouse College, Amherst and Harvard Law School, is from political angles, in thought revolutionary from his famous father.

He has consistently leaned to the left and lined up on issues affecting the common people, from the defense of Angelo Herndon to the present day effort to outlaw the poll tax.

WAS CHIEF ATTORNEY

For four years after graduation he was editor of the magazine supplement published by the cooperatively operated newspaper syndicate serving Negro publications throughout the country. For two years later he practiced law. It was during this period that the famous Herndon "insurrection" case broke in Georgia for which the state levied the death penalty for the distribution of alleged revolutionary literature.

Davis Jr. was chief attorney for the defendant, and the case was fought to the U. S. Supreme court.

While he could not personally argue before this tribunal, the ultimate decision in favor of Herndon was based upon the record as it had been established by counsel in the lower courts. "The Liberator," a militant journal which he published in New York for a year, was a valuable weapon in the struggle. Since 1931 he has been on the editorial staff of the Daily Worker.

Davis says that he "became absorbed in the labor movement because it appeared to be a more effective way of fighting for Negro rights." He could have continued the practice of law. Wasn't he attorney for the Citizens Trust Company in Atlanta when he gave up the practice? He now looks at some of the changes that have been wrought since he made his decision to bear down heavily on the left.

Florence, S. C. Morning News
August 30, 1942

Southern Politicians Make 'White Supremacy' Issue In Campaigns

By JOSH SKINNER

ATLANTA, Aug. 28 — (Wide World) — "White supremacy," password to political success in another era of the south, rang anew from the stumps of Georgia and South Carolina this year, while in Arkansas negroes looked courtward for entry to democratic primaries which name southern officials.

Opponents of those who raised the question said that all white democrats are for white supremacy, that there is no threat to that supremacy, and therefore no basis for such an issue.

In South Carolina, the one who campaigned on a white supremacy plank was defeated narrowly, in Georgia the voting still is to be done.

But these two states served to stir voters to an excitement which is lacking across Dixie generally in this first election year of World War two.

Few races have done more than bring up local issues, and a majority of the senators and representatives offering again were nominated without opposion.

Virginia had a heated contest when the labor question appeared dominantly in the unsuccessful challenge to Representative Howard Smith's challenge by Emmet C. Davidson, secretary-treasurer of the International Machinist Union (AFL). Davidson attacked Smith's advocacy of several amendments to the Wagner labor relations act and his espousal of an unsuccessful bill to ban strikes during the war.

The pensions for congressmen fight was rehashed in Georgia's fifth congressional district when two opponents came out against Representative Robert Ramspeck, author of the measure which was passed (and later repealed) giving congressmen civil service retirement benefits.

Aside from these issues, the campaigns in the solid democratic belt of the south furnished little material for others than the homefolks. With senators and representatives almost to a man behind the administration in both domestic and foreign policies, there was no "isolationism" to debate.

Just this week, U. S. Attorney General Biddle notified District Attorney Sam Rorex at Little Rock he had ordered a federal grand jury investigation into alleged election frauds and civil rights violations in Arkansas. Biddle said the FBI had been investigating the charges, and at Fort Smith Ark., a federal judge instructed a grand jury to probe primary fraud allegations, but made no mention of the civil rights question, which Biddle said involved the denial of voting privileges to qualfied negroes.

The racial question did not enter the Arkansas primary which resulted in nomination for the senate of former Congressman John L. McClellan, forced into a second (run-off) primary against State Attorney General Jack Holt for the place of an interim appointee ineligible to offer. McClellan will serve with Senator Hattie Caraway, whom he unsuccessfully opposed four years ago.

The racial question in South Carolina was injected into the senatorial campaign, while in Georgia it went into the race for governor.

Eugene S. Blease, 65 year old former Chief Justice of the South Carolina Supreme Court, went from county to county in the state's unique parade of candidates with his cry of a threat to white supremacy, but the voters renominated Senator Burnet R. Maybank in the closest vote the state has had in a major race in many years.

Blease, who campagin with the fiery oratory which brought many political successes to his half brother, the late Senator Cole L. Blease, was criticised by many newspapers for "raising" the racial question. He replied that he did not raise the question, that it was thrust upon the state by the effort earlier this year of a group of negroes to gain the vote in the primary, an effort thrown out by the state party.

Maybank held there was no basis for arguing the question, that there was no issue involved because there was no effort to break down white supremacy. Blease contended that the policies of the present national administration tended to break into the state's traditional policies, and therefore South Carolina needed a protector in Washington.

Georgia's racial question faced the same condition with one candidate, Governor Eugene Talmadge, arguing the point, and his opponent, youthful Attorney General Ellis Arnall, saying there was no issue. In the gubernatorial race in which they faced each other, the central debate was over the management of the state university system.

Several colleges were ordered off accredited lists of various college associations last year when Talmadge forced the release of several faculty members on charges of advocating racial coeducation in state institutions. The accrediting groups said there was political interference in the state's educational system, the faculty members denied the Talmadge charges.

It's the "Cracker State's" most heated race in several years.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

DEMOS WIN LOCAL JOBS IN CHICAGO

Wisconsin Gets A Negro Legislator First Time In 36 Years

NOV 14 1942

Swinging on to the Republican band wagon along with the national trend, South side voters cast a majority of ballots for statewide GOP nominees in Tuesday's election but went straight Democratic by a narrow margin for local candidates.

Leading the Democratic victories in the Negro community was Second Ward Committeeman William L. Dawson, who won the First District congressional seat vacated by Rep. Arthur W. Mitchell, who is retiring. Dawson's organization also won all its other contests.

In beating Republican William E King, Dawson garnered 26,593 votes to King's 23,628.

In contrast to the Dawson majority, Republican Senator Wayland Brooks won in both the second and third wards over Raymond S. McKeough.

Wendell E. Green, civil service commissioner, became the first Negro judge in the Municipal court since 1930 running tenth on the Democratic slate with 698,564 votes.

NOV 14 1942

In the county commissioner race, Edward M. Sneed, Democratic Third Ward committeeman, was re-elected, running ninth with 717,610 votes.

Local contests in the First and Third senatorial districts were led by Democrats while the GOP won in the fifth. New state senator from the third will be Christopher C. Wimbish of the Dawson organization who defeated Republican Benjamin Clanton by 18,768 to 16,053 (3 precincts missing).

Results in the state house contests showed:

NOV 14 1942

1st District (2 precincts missing)

Dan Flanigan (D)	10,582
Corneal Davis (D)	9,828
Ernest A. Greene (R)	9,900
Edward A. Welters (R)	8,777

3rd District (3 precincts missing)

George Garry Noonan (D)	31,152
Fred J. Smith (D)	25,804
Charles J. Jenkins (R)	24,648
Dudley S. Martin (R)	23,728

The first three in each instance were elected, Davis, Greene, Welters, Smith, Jenkins and Martin are Negroes.

NOV 14 1942

In the fifth, Republican William J. Warfield led for state representative while Democrat Emmet E. Page trailed behind the three leaders.

Southern Reactionaries May Rule New Congress

By NATHAN ROBERTSON
PM's Bureau

WASHINGTON, Nov. 5.—All Administration leaders in Congress survived the elections and will hold the reins in the new Congress unless still-doubtful contests sweep the Republicans into power in the House.

All House leaders were re-elected and chairmen of all important committees at both ends of the Capitol will be back with possible exception of Rep. Andrew May (D., Ky.) of the House Military Affairs Committee.

But, while there will be little change in leadership in the new Congress unless the Republicans squeeze into control, there will be a strong shift of power. The new Congress will be far more conservative than the present one and the Southern reactionaries will hold the balance of power in both Houses.

Majorities Dwindle

The New Deal majorities which controlled both Houses during the first two Roosevelt administrations have dwindled to a handful of liberals in each chamber. Gone will be such outstanding liberals as George W. Norris (Ind., Neb.) and Prentiss Brown (D., Mich. in the Senate and Reps. Thomas Eliot (D., Mass.) and Raymond McKeough (D., Ill.) in the House.

Down with them went many other New Deal wheelhorses, including Sens. Smathers (R., N. J.), Lee (D., Okla.), Hughes (D., Del) and Schwartz (D., Wyo.). In the House New Deal casualties include such men as Koppleman (D., Conn.), Beiter (D., N. Y.), Casey (D., Mass.) and Ramsey (D., W. Va.), author of the recently enacted Soldiers' Vote Bill, along with many others.

Two outstanding New Deal victories tende dto offset these losses somewhat. They were election of New Dealer James H. Fay to succeed William T. Pheiffer (R., N. Y.) and liberal Will Rogers, Jr., to replace reactionary Leland M. Ford (R., Cal.). Both victors are Democrats.

Some other New Dealers such as Rep. John Coffee (D., Wash.), John Tolan (D., Cal.), Thomas J. Cochran (D., Mo.) also came back. But for every liberal gain, there were two defeats. There are no new liberals in the Senate to replace Norris and most of the new Republican Senators are definitely conservative.

Party Lines Tight

Furthermore, the party line-up in the Senate will be fairly close for the first time since the New Deal came into power. Instead of having more than twice as many votes as the Republicans, the Democrats will need to keep all their numbers in line to control.

On liberal-conservative issues, the Republicans, plus the Southern Democrats, will have definite control of the Senate. Sen. Alben Barkley (D., Ky.) will be the majority leader, but on many issues Sen. McNary (R., Ore.), the minority leader, will have the votes.

This situation has prevailed in the House throughout the last Congress—with the Democrats holding less than 100 more seats than the Republicans. But in the new Congress the party strength will be almost equally divided, so that Rep. Joseph Martin, Jr., Republican leader, will be virtually on a part with Rep. John W. McCormack, the Democratic leader.

The reason there were so few upsets among Democrat leaders in Congress ,despite Republican gains, is that most of the leaders and committee chairmen are Southerners who had no opposition.

Speaker Sam Rayburn and Democratic Whip Robert Ramspeck (D., Ga.) were re-elected by default. So was Chairman Robert M. Doughton (D., N. C.) of the important House Ways and Means Committee.

But Doughton's committee and many of the other House committees will have to be virtually reorganized by the changes down below. Two of the most important members of the Ways and Means Committee, Reps. John W. Boehne, Jr. (D., Ind.) and Richard M. Duncan (D., Mo.), were defeated

The important House Appropriations committees, and the Republicans undoubtvacancies through defeats, retirements, and election of Rep. James G. Scrugman (D., Nev.) to the Senate.

Larger GOP Representation

Because of the increased Republican strength in the House, that party probably will be given a larger representation on the committees, and the Republicans undoubtedly will win additional seats on Senate committees.

Many of the New Deal deefats had been forecast in advance, but one that came as a surprise was the beating taken by Gov. M. M. Neely of West Virvinia in his attempt to get back in the Senate. Neely had shown an ability to switch jobs at will, and he had been expected to have no trouble.

Another surprise was the defeat of Sen. Josh Lee (D., Okla.), author of the recent prohibition amendment to the draft law. E. H. Moore, a conservative Democrat, beat him in normally Democratic Oklahoma by running as a Republican.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Resolute Right Always Wins

We think Negroes regardless of their party differences should keep in touch with each other and plan together. Without agreeing as to the method of getting objectives, it is possible for them to pool their knowledge and their influence.

MAR 20 1942

The enemy is always on the attack. Prejudice has worn a groove in American thinking so deep that a single foe has no hesitation in letting fly at us at any time. He takes it for granted that help will come to his side quickly. It does. We can maintain ourselves by the same mass defense.

Our suggestion is that in this and every other community there shall be a central civic body to which we shall give "our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor."

That oft repeated statement of officials that they know all about us and therefore can be left to do what is best for us without suggestion, is an assumption not attempted with any other group.

MAR 20 1942

They would not dare attempt it with labor. Nor should they get away with it in our case. In some cities we share common public services, but even in those where that happens we do not have equal chance at work. We must look after our own business or suffer it to be neglected.

MAR 20 1942

Maybe in the outset we will make blunders. Others did and survived it, and so can we. At any rate it is better for us to fail while trying than to get nowhere because we did not try.

We have taken too much for granted. Since this drive for defense work has been on, many an employer has said that the reason he had never hired Negroes is because none had ever asked him. Think of our starving where we had only to put forth our hand to get sustenance! Let's ask for anything and everything, and try with all our might to get it. If we fail in this generation, our children will have our example to inspire them to keep up the fight. In the end we will win! Resolute right always wins!

MAR 20 1942

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Eleven Cities Now Beyond 100,000 Population Mark

MAR 28 1942

WASHINGTON

Eleven U.S. cities, four o which reached that standing since 1930, now boast more than 100,00(colored residents, a breakdown of 1940 census figures reveals.

The latest additions to the 100,000 class are Atlanta, Birmingham, Memphis, whose colored population now represents 41.5 per cent of the total, and St. Louis. The others, in order of their rating, are New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Washington, Baltimore, Detroit and New Orleans.

MAR 28 1942

Washington, with an increase of 55,198 during the ten-year period, took a substantial lead over Baltimore, which it trailed by 10,000 in 1930.

A partial list of major cities, showing total and colored popu- your address.)

Here are some new member who would like for other clu members to write them:

Evelyn Duffy, 17; Josephine Duff 15, 44 Clayton Street; Dorothy Holme 16, 56 Clayton Street; Constance Con don, 16, 5 Palmer Street, all of Worce ter, Mass.;

Amelia Washington, 100 Beekm Street, Beacon, N.Y.; Evelyn Rhode 16, 1312 W. Forty-second Street, Ric mond.

ANSWER TO BRAIN PUZZLER
Big Indian, little Indian's mother.

Intelligence Test

(4 25c prizes for best answers

1. The person most likely to em ploy a diatonic scale in h daily work is a (musician butcher, chemist).
2. The famous Yosemite Falls ar located in which State (Cali fornia, Colorado, Utah)?
3. The name of the Russian se cret police is (Gestapo, Reich stag, OGPU).
4. Sound will travel faste through which one of thes (water, steel, air).

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
June 3, 1942

Responsibility

BY WICKES WAMBOLDT

Once when I was called in to do a certain job, the executive who negotiated with me said, "I am not going to tell you how to do this job. I assume you know how." That executive's remark stuck in my mind. It is good medicine. First get a man who knows how to do the job, then let him do it, throw him on his own, get the benefit of his initiative, challenge the best that is in him.

The executive is responsible for the men he employs, but he should make his subordinates responsible for what they do. The more a person can be made to stand on his own feet, the more capable he becomes.

The executive who is so situated that he can supervise all details, can do very well with mediocre subordinates, but an executive like the President of the United States, for instance, who has great and widespread activities under his command, must have subordinates who know how to do what he wants done and who can be trusted to go ahead and do it.

An organization should be built like a pyramid, with the executive on top. The organization should support and uphold its executive. If an organization is built like an inverted pyramid, with the executive at the bottom and the entire weight resting on his shoulder, the load may crush him and the whole structure crash.

The greater the responsibility to be carried, the more shoulders are needed to carry it, and the more competent they should be. Recently a man who built a huge business from scratch, said that he is not working as hard now as he worked when he was running a one-man business.

* *

Things To Think About

At the instance of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the federal government, through the attorney general's office, with the aid of the FBI, has prosecuted a local election official not a million miles from where this article is written, for the alleged violation of an election law.

It would be fine for the white people of the United States if they, too, had some kind of vigorous national association to take up the cudgels for them against election law violations. In many communities throughout this nation the persistent employment of election frauds by political rings is making a farce of self-government. It is ominous for democracy when citizens in any community say despondently, "I am not going to vote. What's the use? They'll steal the election."

Globe and Independer
Nashville, Tenn.

CANDIDATES, BEWARE!

Some of our alleged political leaders, among whom are some of our preachers, show scant regard for the seriousness of elections when they enlist to support any candidate who will give them a sum of money for political work. Sometimes the candidate merely contributes Five or Ten Dollars to a church rally and for this is given an ever solemn promise of the number of votes he is going to get for his "gift to the Lord."

MAY 2 6 1942

We do not doubt that already this class of "vote-swingers" is busy getting appointed to "swing" the votes of their alleged followings. The pity of the matter is there are many managers of political candidates as well as candidates who are regularly "taken in" by this kind of hokum. The wisest among local political leaders, however, know just who among local colored leaders have influence enough to persuade any considerable number of colored men and women to vote as directed by these leaders.

JUN 2 1942

We can advise political leaders that our politician-preachers have less influence, even with their own flocks these days than ever before. This is because the average voter knows as much about candidates and issues as the politician and has only disgust for any preacher who accepts money for his political "services." The average voter, especially a church member, does not enjoy seeing efforts made to corrupt the ministry with political bribes. He believes our ministers, paid as they are by their congregations to lead the people, should hold themselves aloof from such political activities as rounding up voters, providing them with meat, drink and watermelons. Inasmuch as white ministers are never approached and influenced to engage in such political activities, it is displeasing to a large element of colored church

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

Meet Congressman Vito Marcantonio

SPECIAL

Most folk accept Vito Marcantonio, NY representative of the 20th congressional district, as a friend to the Negro and all liberal movements. This was especially true before last May when PV and other papers carried a news dispatch of a **Poll of the 10 Worst Congressmen,** released and conducted by the Union for Democratic Action, 120 E 16 st. His name was listed among the disfavored candidates, which created a bit of confusion. Ever since people have wondered what manner of man is Marcantonio, and have questioned whether or not he is liberal or reactionary. To set the record straight, as well as to enlighten PVites and the general public, PV will let the actual facts of Vito's many deeds speak for themselves.

The name of the Negro messman who heroically manned a gun at Pearl Harbor—Dorie Miller—resulted from inquiries by Representative Vito Marcantonio, member of American Labor Party.

Marcantonio was first to introduce a bill with teeth in it "to prohibit discrimination by any agency supported in whole or in part with funds appropriated by Congress . . . and to prohibit discrimination against persons employed or seeking employment on government contracts because of race, color, or creed" (March 1941). This bill received widespread support from Negro organizations and the Negro press thruout the country and received successful hearings before the House Committee of the Judiciary.

He was one of the first signers of Discharge Petition No. 1 to force the Geyer anti-poll tax bill out of Committee and to bring it to a vote. In the course of public discussion on anti-labor bills, on appropriation measures, on anti-alien legislation, the congressman has never failed to point out the connection between these reactionary moves and the existence of the poll tax. In Congress, and out, as president of the International Labor Defense, Marcantonio has crusaded for the passage of the anti-lynch bill.

On the floor of the House, and in NYC, as president of the Harlem Legislative Conference, he has conducted an unceasing campaign for better houses, schools and hospitals for Harlem and for equal job opportunities. When the daily press started a vicious campaign (last November) against Harlem with false statements about "crime waves," Marcantonio called a special emergency meeting of the Harlem Legislative Conference "to defend Harlem against vicious and unwarranted attacks of real estate interests and others who would profit by discrediting Harlem."

Representative Marcantonio has been in the forefront of the fight to make the Red Cross abandon first its policy of refusing to accept Negro blood and now its policy of segregating blood. On January 28, 1942, he led a delegation to see Norman Davis, chairman of the American Red Cross. It was at this meeting that Davis first announced that because of the pressure that had been brought to bear against the Red Cross, this organization would now accept Negro blood, although segreg -s it from white. He continues to protest RC jimcro and jimcro in general.

At present Marcantonio is drafting a bill that would strengthen the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice by giving it the power to subpoena witnesses, issue cease and desist orders and impose fines when these orders are not carried out. The new bill would also give the President's Committee power to certify cases to the courts for enforcement. In addition to introducing this bill, it was announced that he will attach a rider to every important war appropriation bill that would prohibit the use of any of the funds contained therein as payment to any firm which has been held by FEPC to be engaged in discrimination and which has refused to cease such discrimination.

JUL 17 1942

Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

Want Negro Vote Cast

OCT 9 - 1942

Say Many Colored Electors Will Support Supporters of Roosevelt

WASHINGTON, D. C. —Colored politicians are agreed a month before the November elections that a large majority of the colored vote will go to Democratic candidates for the House and Senate," says William L. Dawson, Democratic candidate for Congress from the 1st district, Illinois.

"This belief is based on the gratitude of colored people to and their confidence in President Roosevelt and his conduct of the war as well as his domestic policies.

OCT 9 - 1942

"All of the 435 House seats are at stake and thirty-four Senators are being chosen, among them Democrats whose reelection is conceded.

"Colored politicians agree that the conduct of the war is the major issue. They are emphatic in saying that colored voters want Senators and Representatives elected who will support the President.

OCT 9 - 1942

"The attitude of colored voters, of course, is not strange. In their view, the President has been directly responsible for the acceptance of colored men in nearly all branches of the Army as both officers and enlisted personnel and their enlistment in the Navy in other than the messman branch.

OCT 9 - 1942

"They also credit him with opening employment to them in the Government and private industry having Government contracts. The accomplishments of the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice in decreasing discrimination in employment on account of race, color, religion, or national origin has had an especially favorable reaction among colored voters.

"The chief concern of colored politicians is getting the colored electorate to the polls on election day. They are now working to arouse interest among them in the congressional races."

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Are You A Voter?

JAN 31 1942

The grave question of the hour confronting every eligible individual is—am I a voter? A government like ours is dependent upon the free and unintimidated expression of the will of the people at the polls. Such a government cannot obtain with a portion of the people refusing to do their part in what balances opinions and reactions.

We have had in this state many dislocations—designed expressly for upsetting the real trend of democracy. We have had high officials and law makers who thought they could preach democracy and at the same time indulge in every thinkable pastime which defeated its ends. As a result through their efforts of some fifty years, they have set up what is styled as white primaries. In addition to this they have resorted in the past to every conceivable method of disfranchisement of voters. These schemes have sent thousands of voters other ways on election days while this few met and chose the officers. These subterfuges have largely been responsible for the inertia of the Negro today in politics everywhere. Our campaigns to reawaken the Negro regarding his political rights and his open expressions through ballots have been uphill journeys. It is strange that men who read the same Bible, pray the same prayers and sing the same hymn can be so inconsistent as to take part in driving their fellows out of councils designed for the expressions of free opinions and inquiring into the condition of all the people.

Go to the registrars and get your name on the voting list. Otherwise you are not a voter,—neither are you a full fledged citizen of this country you are now being called upon to defend with your life!

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

May 27 Date Of Election Of New Mayor

Permanent Registration List Sought

MAR 17 1942

May 27th was selected by City Council Monday as the date for a special election to fill the unexpired term of former Mayor Roy LeCraw, who resigned to accept active service as a major in the Army Chemical Warfare Department.

A resolution asking a law providing for establishment of a permanent registration list in the City of Atlanta and its periodic purging by the City Clerk as registrar was submitted to City Council for action Monday.

The new list would be available for the special mayor's election and all other primary and general elections and would also serve to end the current controversy over use of the new Fulton County registration list.

The legislation was drawn by City Attorney Jack C. Savage at the request of Councilman John A. White.

The present city list after purging will form the nucleus of the new list. Persons who are qualified to vote under the constitution of Georgia but are not registered on the list of January 1, 1936, will not be permitted, upon taking the proper oath, to register with the City registrar. The registrar's book for general and primary elections will be kept open through the last Tuesday in each May in each election year. In cases of special elections to fill vacancies, persons will be permitted to register until 30 days of the election. When a voter has become registered his name shall be kept there until removed for non-payment of poll taxes, departure from the city or other disqualification.

The task of purging the list before each election shall be vested exclusively in the registrar and the following procedure is provided:

1. Prior to each election, letters containing a return post card, shall be sent by mail to every person whose name appears on the registration list.

2. The letter will direct the voter receiving it to return the post card within five days showing the correct name, address, occupation, age and status of poll taxes.

3. Failure to sign and return the card will be considered prima facie evidence that the voter is no longer qualified.

4. After determining that a voter is presumed to be disqualified, the registrar shall publish in the newspaper publishing city advertisements at least one time an alphabetical list of those disqualified with a notice to all such persons that they must produce evidence showing that they are qualified.

5. After a reasonable length of time persons who fail to appear for qualification after their names have appeared in the newspaper shall be stricken from the voters list and must re-register before they can vote.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa

Atlantans To Vote For 1st Mayor In 10 Years

APR 25 1942

ATLANTA, (ANP) — Atlanta's Negro voters will have an opportunity to cast their votes for a mayor for the first time in 10 years when a special election is held here May 27 to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Mayor Roy LeCraw who was recently called to duty by the United States army.

This week the Atlanta Civic and Political league met to consider a program to be followed in connection with the approaching election. A door-to-door campaign has been launched by the league to rally all eligible votes by April 27 the final date for the registration of persons expecting to vote in the election to be held a month later.

MAY DECIDE BOLOT

Stressing unity of Negro voters, J. W. Dobbs, president of the Civic and Political league, has urged that no group of voters commit themselves to any candidate, but that the entire group throw its support back of the candidate offering most. It is believed that the Negro vote may easily prove the deciding factor in the election since to date seven prospective candidates have indicated their desire to run for the vacant post.

DEMAND NEGRO POLICE

It is expected that the league will demand that the candidate receiving its endorsement assure the group that he will give the city Negro policemen, increase school, park and hospital facilities for Negroes, and curb police brutality.

APR 25 1942

Negroes last voted here in a mayor's election in 1932 when the city held a recall-election during the administration of the late James L. Key. It was during the Key administration that the city constructed B. T. Washington High school, several elementary schools for Negroes, and promoted a number of improvement projects affecting the race.

——A Colored Judge——

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

3,308 Negroes Registered For Mayor Election

MAY 19 1942

Colored Vote Is Expected to Be Deciding Factor

Exactly 3,308 Negroes in Fulton and DeKalb counties are eligible to vote in the special mayoralty election on May 27 in which nine candidates will seek the post made vacant by Roy LeCraw who resigned to enter the Army.

An official tabulation shows that 37,847 white people in the two counties are eligible to vote.

This total of 41,155 marks the largest registration of voters in the history of Atlanta.

HIGHER REGISTRATION

City Clerk Joe J. Richardson, who certified the registration list to Council Monday, said it contained approximately 5,000 more names than the previous high list.

Largest number of colored voters are in the Third Ward. The certified list shows that 1,565 colored voters and 2,282 whites are in this ward.

There are 9,581 whites and 11 colored registered in the Sixth Ward; 7,969 whites and 478 colored in the Fourth Ward; 7,338 white and 818 colored in the Fifth Ward; 5,193 white and 408 colored in the First Ward, and 4,929 whites and 29 colored in Second Ward.

Fulton county has a total of [illegible] colored voters, while DeKalb County has a total of 12 colored voters.

MAY 19 1942

DECIDING FACTOR

The colored vote is expected to be a deciding factor in the election.

Many of the colored voters are expected to vote for the candidate approved by the League.

Several of the candidates already have appeared before the Strategy Committee of the Atlanta Civic-Political League to express their views on the Negro question.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

League Makes Honest Effort To Select Right Man For Negro Vote

MAY 19 1942

Officials To Take Oath Before Ballot For Mayor Choice

Officials of the Atlanta Civic-Political League Monday suggested that members of its strategy committee take an oath before casting votes to determine which of the 9 candidates the League will support in the special mayoralty election on May 27.

This suggestion was made in an effort to get sincere and honest ballots from members of the committee, which in turn, would assure colored voters the best candidate to support.

MAY 19 1942

League leaders made the suggestion after learning that one of the candidates seeking the post made vacant by Roy LeCraw, who resigned to accept an Army position, has been accused of spending money among some Negro voters.

It was generally felt that each member of the strategy committee will gladly place his hand on the Bible and swear that he has not received money from candidate.

The League is making an honest effort to select the right man for Negro voters to support, one official said.

At the same time, the League warned colored Atlantans against picking a candidate to support in the election before the League announces its choice.

It was pointed out that the League is working in he interest of all colored voters and that unity among colored Atlantans should be the uppermost aim of all.

League officials said it is their sincere desire that no member of the strategy committee will be influenced by any candidate.

The strategy committee meets again Wednesday afternoon at 4 o'clock at which time members of the body hope to select the candidate the organization and all colored Atlantans will vote for in the coming election.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

WE MUST ACT WISELY

AN EDITORIAL

Monday night, May 25 will mark a significant date in the history of Atlanta. The Atlanta Civic and Political League is urging all colored citizens eligible to vote in the city, to be present at Big Bethel church that night at eight-thirty o'clock and participate in the selection of a candidate for the position of mayor in the special election on that following Wednesday.

MAY 24 1942

Shortly after it was revealed an election would be held to fill the position made vacant by the resignation of former Mayor LeCraw, the Atlanta Daily WORLD unselfishly made an agreement with officers of the League to the effect that the paper would be neutral in the election. We realized the many racial circumscriptions we suffered in this city and had the opinion if the entire voting strength of the race got united behind one organization the race would have the greatest bargaining strength.

The ministerial alliances and various other organizations are committed to support the candidate agreed upon by the League Monday night. It is our hope that the strategy committee of the League will, after having heard the various candidates, recommend to the voters a candidate that has the support of the better element of the community as a whole and bear in mind the integrity of the candidate along with the promises made, to say nothing of the ability of the candidate to fulfill them.

We realize that police brutality is the question that is uppermost in the minds of many of our group but it would be short-sighted upon our part to support a candidate solely upon such a relatively unimportant question. We must, to be sure, insist upon the cessation of police beatings but at the same time we should support a candidate who has the connections and who can help us advanre along economic, educational and political lines. In other words we must take a long-range view.

MAY 24 1942

Because of the importance of the obligation the members of the strategy committee of the League are charged with we present their names: John W. Dobbs, Rev. M. L. King, C. A. Scott, Joseph Crawford, W. S. Holloman, W. Y. Bell, officers: C. R. Yates, J. C. Long, Bishop W. S. Fuller, Hubert Jackson, Rev. J. C. Wright, J. P. Whittaker, Rev. W. H. Borders, John Harden, T. M. Alexander, Menelik Jackson, S. W. Walker, Prof. W. H. Dean, J. R. Wilson, Jr., Dr. Miles Amos, J. H. Henderson, W. H. Aiken, H. M. Ivey, J. H. Calhoun, A. G. Moron, Attorney A. T. Walden, Andrew Lewis, Dr. Charlie Johnson, Dr. X. L. Neal, Prof. C. L. Harper Mesdames Geneva Haugabrooks, C. M. Pearson, H. M. Holmes, C. B. Pittman, W. A. Scott, Sr.

The above named civic-minded men and women are expected to recommend to the colored voters Monday night the man whom they think should receive the support of colored Atlantans. If you are a voter, and every person who really believes in democracy should qualify to vote as soon as possible, you should come out and participate in this meeting and, what is more important, you should plan now to take the necessary time off Wednesday in order to cast your vote.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

May 27 Will Be Big Day For Atlantans

MAY 20 1942

MAY 20 1942

By ROBERT M. RATCLIFFE

Realizing that their voting power may mean victory for one of the nine men entered in the mayoralty campaign, usually calm colored Atlantans at the moment appear more interested in the May 27 special election than white voters.

It is only natural that Negroes should be interested in the coming election. It will mark the first time in years that colored Atlantans have had the privilege of actually helping to elect a mayor.

Denied the right to vote in southern primaries, at which time an election is decided to a great extent, colored voters carry very little enthusiasm with them when they trek to the polls to cast their ballots in general elections.

But the May 27 special election is different. And it will be a different Negro at the polls too.

There is much talk—political talk—behind doors, on the street corners and sidewalks these days. The Negro is talking votes.

He isn't doing all the talking however. Candidates seeking the office made vacant by Mayor Roy LeCraw when he resigned to enter the Army have been invited to express their views before the Strategy Committee of the Atlanta Civic-Political League and several of them have faced the committee and revealed where they stand on the Negro question.

A worthwhile suggestion came the other day from a prominent colored minister. "We should make May 27 a holiday for colored Atlantans," he said. "All employers should cooperate by giving their colored workers enough time off to go to the voting stations and cast their ballots."

MAY 20 1942

Already this suggestion has reached the ears of Negro employers, and many of them are considering it possible for their employees to do their civic duty on this "day of days."

Negroes realize they must stick together if they expect to get effective results. And right through here, it appears as though they are agreed on this one question.

They are working through the Atlanta Civic-Political League, a growing organization largely responsible for the manner in which hundreds of colored Atlantans became qualified voters this year.

One thing is sure and certain. Atlanta Negroes are going to the polls in this special election knowing that their votes count.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

League's Choice For Mayor To Be Told On Monday

Big Mass Meeting To be Held At Big Bethel Church

MAY 24 1942

The Atlanta Civic-Political League will announce its choice for mayor in the May 27 special election at a public meeting scheduled to be held tomorrow night at Big Bethel AME church. The meeting will start at 8:30 o'clock.

All colored persons qualified to vote in the coming election are expected to attend the meeting.

The candidate who will receive the League's support will be determined by a vote of the Civic League's Strategy Committee. Members of this committee have listened to several of the nine candidates entered in the race and investigated their records.

MAY 24 1942

John Wesley Dobbs, president of the League, said the political and civic body is interested in better police protection, better schools, better parks and playgrounds facilities, better hospital facilities, fire protection and more employment for colored people living in Atlanta.

52a-1942
Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

GEORGIA

Negroes To Vote In Mayoralty Election

Registration Drive Is Given Greater Impetus

Two Already In Race for Job Left

By Roy LeCraw

MAR 15 1942

Atlanta's forthcoming special mayoralty election, the date of which will be fixed by city council tomorrow, received considerable discussion among colored leaders Saturday.

It was noted that Negroes will be able to vote in the special election without restriction, and, as a minority group, may prove the most important balance of voting power. This voting bloc, most likely, will be highly sought after.

REGISTRATION URGED

Registration and re-registration of Negro voters was urged, in order that the group as a whole might be ready for the opportunity.

Hardly had Mayor Roy LeCraw's chair been vacated by his resignation Saturday when two persons announced their candidacy for the municipality post. Councilman John A. White and Dewey L. Johnson, city electrician and president of the Georgia Federation of Labor announced they were in the race for the $8,000-a-year job.

Indications were that there will be a large number of entries as mayoralty candidates, including former Mayor William B. Hartsfield, who was beaten by only a few votes in the last city Democratic primary, which was tantamount to election.

MAR 15 1942

Mayor Pro Tem George Lyle will conduct the affairs of the city until the special election is held.

DONS HIS UNIFORM

Former Mayor LeCraw donned the uniform of an Army major after abandoning his city post shortly after noon Saturday. He entered the chemical warfare service with the U. S. Army for the duration, asking to be sent into combat service with the troops as soon as possible.

He had held a commission for years and consequently was not sworn in by Colonel A. L. Rockwood of the chemical procurement division, who received the mayor in the Bona Allen building. Mr. LeCraw expects to be sent to the Edgewood arsenal chemical warfare school in Maryland for a couple of months' training and then will be sent into the battle scenes.

COLORED VOTES MAY DECIDE NEXT MAYOR OF ATLANTA

Pittsburgh Courier

APR 25 1942

ATLANTA, April 23. (ANP)—Atlanta's Negro voters will have an opportunity to cast their votes for a mayor for the first time in 10 years when a special election is held here May 27 to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Mayor Roy LeCraw who was recently called to duty by the United States Army.

APR 25 1942

This week the Atlanta Civic and Political League met to consider a program to be followed in connection with the approaching election. A door-to-door campaign has been launched by the league to rally all eligible votes by April 27, the final date for the registration of persons expecting to vote in the election to be held a month later.

Stressing unity of Negro voters, J. W. Dobbs, president of the Civic and Political League, has urged that no group of voters commit themselves to any candidate, but that the entire group throw its support back of the candidate offering the most. It is believed that the Negro vote may easily prove the deciding factor in the election, since to date seven prospective candidates have indicated their desire to run for the vacant post.

Negroes last voted here in a mayor's election in 1932 when the city held a recall election during the administration of the late James L. Key. It was during the Key administration that the city constructed B. T. Washington high school, several elementary schools for Negroes, and promoted a number of improvement projects affecting the race.

APR 25 1942

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Voters Have Two Days To Qualify

APR 24 1942

52a

Thousands Expected to Vote In Special Election on May 27

APR 24 1942

Today and Monday are the last days Atlantans have to vote in the special mayoralty election of May 27.

Hundreds of persons crowded the office of County Register. Earl Suttles Friday as the deadline grew nearer for closing registration for the city vote lists City Registrant J. L. Richardson is compiling the city's registration list from the county lists. Persons may register at City Hall, but registration at the Courthouse is preferable since it allows the registrant to vote in county and state elections, as well as city balloting.

Atlantans who have received verification cards from City Registrar Richardson and have failed to return them as required by law are urged to do so immediately. Failure to return the cards will result in even perfectly bonified registrants' names being stricken from the list. Atlantans who are certain they are registered, yet who have not received their verification cards, are urged to go to the office of the City Registrar and find out the reason why.

APR 24 1942

The form of the card first is being sent Atlantans is as follows:

TO CITY REGISTRAR:

I hereby, certify that my correct name is.....my occupation is ..... ; that I now live and reside at No..... on.....Street or Avenue in City of Atlanta, Georgia; Vote in ward ..... ; that I was born on the ....day of ..... 19 ..... and that I have paid all poll taxes due by me for the year 194., and all prior years.

This the.. ....day of..... 194..

Signed: ....

The Atlanta Civic-Political League is making last-minute efforts to get as many Negro Atlantans as possible to the registration offices and twice to the polls on May 27, the special mayoralty election date.

APR 24 1942

The League is "on the job," according to J. W. Dobbs, president. The organization holds its next general meeting the first Tuesday night in May, when a discussion of candidates for the municipality post will be held. A decision as to the candidate that Negroes will support as a whole unit will be made as the last minute. The League will hold strategy meetings regularly before the election.

A meeting of precinct and block workers of the Northeast section will be held at the Masonic Temple Sunday afternoon at four o'clock. J. H. Calhoun and Robert Eberhardt are in charge of the district, with Usher Williams, William A. Fowlkes, Vernon A. Buck and M. M. Milligan working under them. The workers will assemble promptly and discuss the progress of their efforts to get as many persons as possible registered and able to vote.

Atlanta, Ga. Journal
May 24, 1942

Observers See Mayoralty Vote As 3-Man Race

41,000 Registered To Ballot Wednesday In Special Election

By KEN TURNER

As Atlanta's mayoralty race entered the home stretch—the voting

is scheduled Wednesday from 7 a. m. until 8 p. m.—political observers Saturday predicted a tight race among three of the nine candidates—former Mayor William B. Hartsfield, Alderman G. Dan Bridges and City Electrician Dewey L. Johnson.

Besides the three predicted as leaders, other candidates include Councilman John A. White, Mayor George Lyle, James R. Bachman, retired businessman, who is expected to run a strong race in his home ward, the Second; Alderman Frank Reynolds, Councilman Howard Haire and Jimmy Vickers, a newcomer to the field of city politics.

Information about all candidates' records may be found on Page 13-C. Polling places listed on Page 16-A.

Since the start of the campaign six weeks ago, Mr. Hartsfield has been the one candidate against whom the others have directed their fire. The managers of the other candidates, and in many instances the candidates themselves—privately of course—admit that the former mayor is "the man to beat."

The special election is attracting considerable public interest. While there has been little fan-fare in connection with the race, this interest is evidenced by the number of names on the registration list which is the largest in the city's history.

41,000 Qualified

More than 41,000 persons have qualified to vote, according to Joe L. Richardson, city registrar.

To further add to the interest, the grand jury on two occasions during the past week took cognizance of the forthcoming election.

Tuesday the grand jury cited the importance of the election and urged all Atlantians to cast their ballot. The jurors also recalled the open charges of fraud which followed the June, 1940, mayoralty primary and promised that a recurrence would result in an investigation.

Friday, the grand jury launched a special investigation into reported irregularities in connection with registrations and returned one true bill against a woman for false swearing. It was learned this investigation is continuing and will not be halted by the election.

Negro Vote in Doubt

The Negro vote in this election is calling for considerable speculation. With more than 3,300 Negroes registered, political observers are wondering if any one candidate will get a majority or if they will be split fairly even.

J. W. Dobbs, president of the Negro Political League, has called a meeting for 8 p. m. Monday at Big Bethel Church, at which he said the platforms of all candidates will be discussed. He indicated a choice of the league for mayor would be made at this meeting.

The size of the vote provides another question mark for the candidates and political observers. A large vote—more than 20,000—would react favorably to Mr. Hartsfield, observers contend.

On the other hand, if the vote does not go over 15,000 or 18,000 it is believed this would favor either Alderman Bridges or Mr. Johnson.

There is a wide difference of opinion on how many voters will go to the polls. Some observers feel that the number will exceed 22,000, while others believe there will be a 40 per cent turnout, or about 17,000 voters.

Managers Get Warning

Mr. Richardson met Saturday with his election managers and warned them against laxity in handling the voting.

He also pointed out several changes in city ordinances covering this election. These include:

1. No candidate or his representative may witness the counting unless the candidate has specifically requested it in writing to the election managers.

2. Establishment of a uniform system of counting and double checking the vote.

Mr. Richardson said the mayor's ballot will be the first secret ballot used by the city. The ballot is in three sections but only two of these bear numbers, so after the ballot is dropped in the box by the voter there is no way of linking the ballot and the voter.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

JUN 14 1942

The Coming Primary

Next September will witness the holding of the state Primary for the nomination of those who will receive the party sanction for state house officers, governor, congressman and one United States Senator. This will be a Democratic primary of course and since we have a one-party system here in Georgia those who receive the nomination in this primary will in all probability be the ones who will fill the offices.

There will be no Republican primary held, hence those who harbor that faith will see their nominees go by default.

We have come to the conclusion to vote for men first and then party. Party lines are fast losing out and men are becoming more concerned over men and issues. This is the democratic way and the only procedure for the attaining the highest objectives in good government.

Where there is a one-party system, all men who have the admiration of any man or issue should be permitted to vote their preference in any primary. If the old rules obtain as relate to primaries in this state, housands will not be permitted to cast their ballot in preference fo rthe men and issues they prefer. This ought not so to be.

JUN 14 1942

Every taxpayer in this state who is eligible should be allowed to chose his own party affiliations and men set up to govern levy and expense taxes.

In the last national election it was noticed that many men of color chose to cast their lot with the Democratic party. If these men persist that faith, they should not be eliminated from expressing their preference in a primary bearing the label of their party. Any bar to them could not be interpreted as in line with democratic principles.

We are met on a great battle front. There are those striving on every hand to widen a breech between the citizens of our country for the benefit of the Axis powers. Such group or groups are not contributing to national unity.

It cannot be seen how in reason the chosen Democratic committee can stage a white primary to the exclusion of thousands of free citizens working over time and buying bonds for the common defense.

JUN 14 1942

We refuse to be misled by those who are seizing upon every opportunity and issue to emphasize questionable policies in our body politic. We are going to carry on in our own little corner for the defeat of un-Americanism in this country as well as for the defeat of the Axis powers.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
October 12, 1942

COUNTY UNIT SYSTEM

In his interesting address to the Chattanooga Civitans Friday, Mr. Grady Head, newly nominated attorney general of Georgia, defended the county unit system by which Georgia names its officials. He said, "We have 159 counties, the eight largest having six unit votes, thirty counties have four units and the remaining counties have two units, based on the population of the counties, including Negroes. Under this plan no man can control state politics."

Mr. Head has made a good record and is popular in North Georgia and in Chattanooga, but his analysis of the county unit system does not conform to that of some Georgians. The Atlanta *Journal*, for instance, says that under the county unit system the ballot of the city resident "is so diluted in strength that it is hardly worth casting."

Some of the smaller counties also suffer, as the following comment in the Pickens County *Progress* shows:

> The county unit system of voting is based on population and not on the number of registered voters. This gives middle and south Georgia counties with large Negro populations a decided advantage over north Georgia counties where the colored population is small. For instance, in the recent primary, Pickens, a two-vote county, polled 1,606 votes in the Governor's race while Baldwin, a four-vote county, polled only 1,563. Following are the total votes cast in some of the other four-vote counties: Brooks, 1,377; Burke, 1,208, and Worth, 1,596. To show the unfairness of it, Cherokee polled 2,728 and Whitfield 3,240, and both have only two convention votes.

Governor Gordon Browning sought to impose the county unit system on Tennessee in an effort to counteract the Shelby County strength of Mr. Ed Crump, who had turned against him. The defeat which the people inflicted on Governor Browning at the subsequent election proved well enough what this State thinks of the county unit system.

52a - 1942
New Republic
New York, N. Y.

Gerogia

South Carolina. – In the heart of a South flooded with insidious propaganda aimed at stirring up race distrust and hatred, Sen. Burnet R. Maybank has won renomination against an opponent who tried to use the race issue against him. Candidate Eugene Blease trotted out this issue only when he realized that he was losing the race. It is significant that The Atlanta Constitution, "The South's Standard Newspaper," saw fit to editorialize on this election: "The candidate for office who raises the ancient cry of 'nigger, nigger,' is doing so only because he thinks thereby to gain votes and has no scruples as to how he gains them.

"For Blease of South Carolina it may be said that he did not at the start predicate his campaign upon such an unworthy issue. He adopted it when he realized he was trailing in the race. SEP 14 1942 SEP 14 1942

"Not so much can be said for Talmadge of Georgia. He laid the groundwork for that shameful issue in equally shameful manner in his notorious legal lynching of professors at the University of Georgia. His act was premeditated and deliberate, not done in the stress of a campaign.

"Georgia will join her neighbor state South Carolina in repudiating such political chicanery at the polls on September 8." SEP 14 1942

Washington HELEN FULLER

52a-1942

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

G. O. P. FAR AHEAD IN CHICAGO AREA CONGRESS VOTE

52a

Republican Count Exceeds Democratic Total.

NOV 8 - 1942

BY HAROLD SMITH.

Republicans gained one Chicago district seat in Tuesday's congressional elections, but an analysis of the figures for the 11 districts in the area shows that the actual improvement in party strength was much greater than appears on the surface.

The study reveals that the Democrats' pluralities of 133,255 in 1938 and 78,249 in 1940 were wiped out completely and replaced in Tuesday's balloting by a G. O. P. margin of more than 76,500. NOV 8 - 1942

The total Republican vote in the 11 districts last week, with 25 precincts missing, was 956,218, a gain of 133,876 over the party total of 822,342 in the comparable by-election four years ago.

Democratic Vote Declines.

The Democratic turnout on the basis of Tuesday's incomplete figures was only 879,775, a drop of 75,822 below 1938. NOV 8 - 1942

Here are Tuesday's unofficial results by district, complete except for the 25 missing precincts, which will not be reported until the official canvass is announced:

First District.

Candidate.	1942 Vote.	Plurality.
William L. Dawson [D.]	34,641	11,013
William E. King [R.]	23,628	

Second District.

[7 precincts missing.]

William A. Rowan [D.]	108,925	3,746
Thomas J. Downs [R.]	105,179	

Third District.

[6 precincts missing.]

Edward A. Kelly [D.]	107,639	
W. E. Busbey [R.]	113,477	5,838

Fourth District.

[1 precinct missing.]

Adam Gorski [D.]	60,333	44,013
Elmer J. Rutshaw [R.]	16,320	

Fifth District.

Rep. J. J. Sabath [D.]	29,265	18,067
Ralph Graver [R.]	11,198	

Sixth District.

[5 precincts missing.]

Thomas J. O'Brien [D.]	151,917	41,045
Harold J. Trafelet [R.]	110,872	

Seventh District.

[8 precincts missing.]

Rep. L. W. Schuetz [D.]	179,391	3,630
James C. Moreland [R.]	175,761	

Eighth District.

Thomas S. Gordon [D.]	33,526	24,101
Rena E. Pikiel [R.]	9,425	

Ninth District.

[1 precinct missing.]

Irwin N. Walker [D.]	38,475	
Rep. Charles S. Dewey [R.]	40,642	2,167

Tenth District.

[2 precincts missing.]

Jack Bairstow [D.]	103,985	
Ralph E. Church [R.]	148,049	44,054

Eleventh District.

[1 precinct missing.]

Joseph Sam Perry [D.]	39,726	
Rep. Chauncey W. Reed [R.]	97,682	57,956

Districts 1 to 10 are in Cook county, the 10th also including all of Lake county. The 11th district is made up of McHenry, Du Page, Kane and Will counties. NOV 8 - 1942

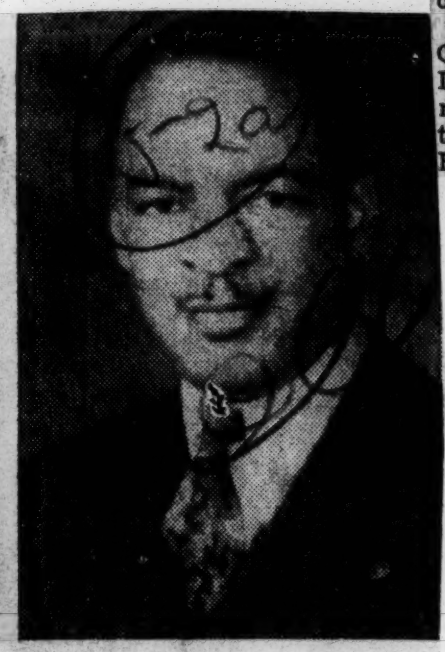
The district recaptured by the Republicans was the 3d. The G. O. P. showed gains over their 1938 pluralities in all except the 4th and 8th districts. It registered advances over its 1940 margins in all but the 9th and 11th districts. The Republican gains since the last off year election in 1938 were especially large in the 2d and 7th districts.

G.O.P.

52a-1942
Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois







APR 19 1942

DEMOCRATIC STALWARTS in the primary election Tuesday were Hon. Wendell E. Green, candidate for judge, who polled more than 397,000 votes; Commissioner Edw. M. Sneed, candidate for re-election as a member of the county board, who garnered more than 351,800 votes, and Committeeman William L. Dawosn received 13,700 votes as candidate for Congress from the first district.

E. DICKERSON NOSED OUT BY KELLY-NASH

APR 19 1942

Powerful Machine Wins

Earl B. Dickerson was defeated by William A. Dawson for nomination for Congressman from the first Congressional district in Tuesday's primaries following one of the most intensive campaigns ever staged in that district.

Dawson won with plenty of votes to spare despite the efforts made by Dickerson's supporters to beat the powerful Kelly-Nash combine that threw the full weight of its support behind the man whom Congressman Mitchell endorsed.

Dawson will meet Commissioner William E. King in the election contest this fall. King, who is one of the strongest Republicans in the state, won the nomi-

Green, Prescott Winners

Civil Service Commissioner Wendell E. Green won the nomination for Municipal Court judge nation with considerable ease. on the Democratic ticket, polling more than 300,000 votes. Commissioner Green had the endorsement of the Kelly-Nash machine and Judge Prescott had the endorsement of both the Regular Republican group and the Deneen faction.

APR 19 1942

Judge Patrick B. Prescott, Jr., is making history so far as his vote-getting ability is concerned. As we go to press his name is second from the top of the nominees for Municipal Court judge on the Republican ticket. No other colored candidate has produced such a record.

Atty. J. Ernest Wilkins, who had the endorsement of the Deneen faction, lost the nomination on the Republican ticket for Municipal court judge.

In the first senatorial district State Rep. Ernest A. Greene (R) is leading, despite the fact that the Republican organization refused to endorse Greene. Greene will be one of the few candidates to win without party support.

Corneal Davis, who also ran in the first district, won the Democratic nomination for state representative.

APR 19 1942



CHAS. J. JENKINS

Rep. Jenkins Wins

Representative Charles J. Jenkins, veteran member of the legislature, and Dudley Martin won the nomination for state repre-

APR 19

sentatives in the 3d senatorial district.

Emmett Page, father of Capt. Orion Page who is with the 184th Infantry, won the Democratic nomination for state representative in the 5th senatorial district. Rep. William J. Warfield won the Republican nomination in the ame district.

Sen. Wallace Nosed Out

State Senator William A. Wallace was nosed out for the nomination in the 5th district when C. C. Wimbish, who received the blessings of the regular Democratic machine, won without much difficulty. He will run against Atty. Benjamin Clanton next fall who won the Republican nomination.

Douglass Loses to McKeough

After one of the hardest fights in the history of party politics Ald. Paul Douglass lost the nomination for U. S. Senator to Congressman Raymond S. McKeough. The later had the endorsement of the Kelly-Nash machine. C. Wayland Brooks won the Republican nomination for U. S. Senate.

Dr. J. B. Martin and O. Stanton DePriest won the nomination for county commissioners on the Republican ticket. Commissioner Edward M. Sneed won the nomination on the Democratic ticket.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okl

DAWSON SWAMPS DICKERSON FOR CONGRESS AS KING AND MANY OTHERS WIN PRIMARY ELECTIONS

Attempts to Win Office Now Held By Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell Who Will Not Run

BACKED BY KELLY-NASH MACHINE

MAY 9 1942

CHICAGO.—(ANP)—Replacing Rep. Arthur W. Mitchell with the complete blessing of the powerful Kelly-Nash machine, William L. Dawson buried the congressional aspirations of Ald. Earl B. Dickerson in the primary elections Tuesday by around 15,000 votes to 5,000 and emerged as the Democratic nominee who will face his bitter political enemy, William E. King, Republican winner, in the November voting.

APR 25 1942

Although the congressional race furnished the main fireworks, Dawson and King were not the only winners. Virtually complete election returns showed 15 others won nomination for various offices on both major party tickets, including three for the county commission and two for the municipal court bench.

APR 25 1942

Dawson, a former Republican city councilman, has run for congress before on the Republican ticket. It was here that this split occurred with King, former G. O. P. state senator, who has also run for congress. In their last primary battle for the Republican nomination, Dawson was victor only to lose to Mitchell in November. It was charged then that the King forces threw their weight behind Mitchell instead of the standard bearer of their party. Since that time Dawson has switched to the Democratic faith and is the committeeman of the second ward.

Dickerson, although second ward alderman and a Democrat of long standing, has never won the backing of the "regular" or Kelly combine, probably the strongest machine in the nation. Some months ago Dickerson was promised the full support of the regular forces if he cared to run for judge, but was threatened with sure defeat if he ran for congress

A member of the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practices and one of the most articulate Negro leaders in the nation, Dickerson counted on his highly publicized fight for racial rights to pull him through to victory. But his national recognition was not enough to beat the smoothly "oiled" combination backing Dawson, who is also generally regarded as being brilliant and capable although something of a political opportunist.

It is believed in some quarters that Dickerson may seek to throw his young organization behind King next fall. Political observers, who at first believed this year might see a Republican victory in November, believe that it will take the support of Dickerson and many others to gain a King decision. They point to the fact that in Tuesday's primary, about 22,000 Democratic votes were cast as only 12,000 Republican ballots were counted when King won by polling approximately 10,000 to 1,200 for his closest rival, Atty. Bindley Cyrus.

Another barrier to a King triumph is his last-minute ditching of several candidates who were able to come through anyway without regular Republican organization backing. State Rep. Ernest Greene of the first district was dropped because his law partner, Atty. Cyrus, entered the congressional race against King and former Assemblyman Harris B. Gaines was ditched at the last minute in favor of a white candidate who had the backing of a business group with considerable cash in hand. Both Greene and Gaines are listed as winners although a contest may develop. It is problematical whether Greene or Gaines will in the fall support the man who tried to sidetrack them in the spring.

Whom Dickerson refused to withdraw from the congressional race, the name of Wendell Green, civil service commissioner who was appointed as a Republican but changed to a Democrat, was placed on the judicial ballot. He was one of the 12 nominated. Mr. Green, president of Provident hospital, is recognized as one of the foremost criminal lawyers in the nation. On the Republican side a winner was Atty. Patrick B. Prescott Jr., recently appointed by Governor Greene to fill out a municipal court vacancy but from serving through a technicality.

O. Stanton DePriest, son of the first Negro congressman from Illinois, Oscar DePriest, and Dr. J. B. Martin, who has lived in Chicago since the police "reign of terror" against him in Memphis two years ago, won Republican nominations for the county commission. Edward M. Sneed, Democratic incumbent, was renominated.

Oother apparent winners in the state assembly races in addition to Greene and Gaines were Corneal A. Davis, Democrat, first district; C. C. Wimbish, Fred J. Smith, Democratsg Benjamin Clanton, Charles J. Jenkins and Dudley Martin, Republicans, third district, and Emmett E. Page, Democrat, William J. Warfield, Republican, fifth district.

Wimbish won the nomination over State Sen. William A. Wallace, dropped by the Kelly Nash forces and who also was fired from his job in the county building for supporting Dickerson.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

G. O. P. VICTORY SEEN IN NEGRO CONGRESS VOTE

SEP 1 3 1942

Turncoat Politics of Dawson Cited.

SEP 1 3 1942

BY HAROLD SMITH.

Because it always takes its politics seriously, but more particularly this year because party sentiment is in a state of change, the little 1st district, stronghold of Chicago's colored vote, set the pace in the early congressional campaigning last week.

G. O. P. leaders report a rising tide of votes they are confident will elect the first Republican representative for the district since Oscar De Priest fell before Arthur W. Mitchell in 1934. Mitchell was the first Democrat to represent the district since 1902, when Martin Emerich nosed out Martin B. Madden. Two years later Madden was elected to the first of 12 consecutive terms.

Traditionally G. O. P.

Several factors contribute to this Republican revival. One is the fact that the colored voter is traditionally of G. O. P. leaning. Another is the fact that the patronage starved Republicans in the district took new heart from the drubbing their revamped organization gave the bipartisan Dan Serritella forces in this year's primary.

SEP 1 3 1942

Hobart E. Neff was the man who took the G. O. P. nomination for state senator away from Serritella. He did this largely with the help of the Business Men's committee. In his camp were such men as Bernard S. Black, state lodging house inspector and 1st ward leader for the committee, and former State Sen. William E. King, the congressional nominee this year. King is a beneficiary of the growing power of this combination.

A third factor is the revulsion that has followed the party switch made recently by William L. Dawson, the Democratic nominee this year who carried the G. O. P. banner against Mitchell in the 1938 election. Dawson presumably was rewarded by the Democrats for the good work he did in their behalf when he was nominally a Republican.

Criticize Dawson Shift.

Colored voters who criticize Dawson declare that only a man of strong convictions is worthy of representing them in the national congress.

King, who lost to Mitchell by only 3,943 votes in 1940, has predicted he will defeat Dawson by a decisive margin this year. He and his followers say they expect to wipe out the usual Democratic margin in the 1st ward on Nov. 3, and to pick up more than enough to win in the 2d, home ward of both candidates.

Something new has been added to the campaign in the 3d district—a vigor usually shown only by candidates for local office, where Fred E. Busbey, Republican, is putting up a lively fight against the Democratic incumbent, Edward A. Kelly.

Busbey Out Campaigning.

Taking advantage of the fact that G. O. P. forces in his district are showing the greatest unity in several years, Busbey is bolstering organization effort with a personal campaign that has kept him busy thruout the summer in the southern and southwestern country towns.

Busbey, an orator of no mean sort, has the experience of 21 years on the lecture platform, principally as Americanism worker for the American Legion. He is past state director of Americanism for the Legion.

One evidence of the growing G. O. P. unity in the 3d district is provided by the enthusiasm behind the Republican Round Table meetings in the 17th ward, almost wholly contained within the 3d. These open forum meetings, which quickly outgrew their starting place, are now held in the Rowantrees hotel at 8 o'clock each Monday evening. The chairman is Waldemar J. Roehler, G. O. P. congressional nominee in 1940.

SEP 1 3 1942

Gets Big Reception.

Busbey was given a rousing reception in a recent appearance as guest speaker, as was Thomas J. Downs, Republican nominee in the 2d congressional district. Tomorrow Chauncey W. McCormick, civic leader, will address the meeting on "the local importance and world-wide significance of a Republican victory in Illinois."

Things were relatively quiet last week in the 2d and 4th districts, where Democratic nominees slated by the city hall in place of the incumbents are favored to win in November.

In the 2d, Ald. William A. Rowan [10th], a veteran of the city council, is supplanting Congressman Raymond S. McKeough, Democratic nominee for United States senator. His G. O. P. opponent is Thomas J. Downs, who first rose to political prominence as head of the Illinois Young Republican organization.

SEP 1 3 1942

In 4th District.

In the 4th, where Congressman Harry P. Beam is retiring to run for the Municipal court bench, full city hall machine support is behind Martin Gorski, a master in chancery, who is ending his term as Arthur Joseph Rutshaw, a former state representative, was called from felet of Berwyn, political retirement to carry the G. O. P. colors.

The 6th district, which takes in a big area of the southwest side, is developing a lively fight between former Congressman Thomas J. O'Brien, who is ending his term as county sheriff, and Raymond E. Tra-

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Mitchell Declines Congress Candidacy

WASHINGTON, D. C. (Exclusive). — Representative Arthur W. Mitchell told the Star-News Thursday morning that he had declined the nomination of the Second Ward Regular Democratic organization in Chicago and that he positively would not be a candidate to succeed himself as congressman from the First Illinois District.

Attorney William L. Dawson, former alderman, and one-time wheelhorse for the old DePriest organization when he was a Republican, has been given the nod for the post. A former G. O. P. stalwart, Dawson first struck out for congress at least 18 years ago while the late Martin B. Madden was the representative. He is now committeeman of the Second Ward Democratic Organization, close to the Kelly-Nash high command.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Dickerson Gets CIO Backing For Congress

FEB 16 1942

Chicago Unions Call on Kelly to Endorse Progressive

(Special to the Daily Worker)

CHICAGO, Feb. 15.—The Illinois Industrial Union Council, through its vice president, Robert C. Travis has given unqualified support to Alderman Earl B. Dickerson, Negro leader, who is a candidate for Congress in the coming Democratic Party primary. Dickerson is a member of the President's Fair Employment Practice Committee.

In a telegram to Mayor Kelly, who is also head of the city Democratic Party organization, Travis said:

"Have conferred with the leadership of the Farm Equipment Workers, Packinghouse Workers, Auto Workers, Steel Workers and Fur Workers relative to Democratic endorsement of congressman in the First District.

"We have come to the conclusion that Alderman Dickerson of course completely supports President Roosevelt's policies, plus having liberal views toward labor.

"No other candidate in this area can suffice. We are prepared to actively support Alderman Dickerson in April. Urgently request Democratic endorsement for this man who is outstanding in his field."

FEB 16 1942

Individual unions have sent similar wires to Mayor Kelly.

Memphis Tenn. Comercial Appeal
February 12, 1942

ENTERS ILLINOIS POLITICS

ExMemphis Negro Running As G.O.P. Candidate In Chicago

Dr. J. B. Martin, who blamed his interest in local Republican politics for police picketing of his South Memphis Drug Co., 907 Florida, in 1940, is now actively engaged in Chicago politics, relatives of the negro leader said yesterday.

Dr. Martin is one of two Republican candidates for Cook County commissioner. The post pays a $10,000 annual salary. He is now seeking the Republican nomination and if successful will oppose a Democratic candidate in the Fall. He has been in Chicago about 14 months.

The drug store here is now being operated by his son, William Martin. Dr. Martin is part owner of the Memphis Red Sox, negro professional baseball team, and is president of the American League (negro).

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

G. O. P. CENTERS FIGHT IN FOUR 'OPEN' DISTRICTS

FEB 15 1942

Early Filings Point to Hot Campaign.

ILLINOIS

BY HAROLD SMITH.

Republican hopes of scoring new Chicago gains against their Democratic foes in congressional campaigns this year soared high last week as first filings signalized the official opening of the campaigns in the 11 Chicagoland districts for the April 14 primary.

Eight of the 11 districts are now represented in Washington by Democrats—the 1st to 8th, inclusive. The 9th, 10th, and 11th have G. O. P. incumbents. The first 10 districts are in Cook county, the 10th also including all of Lake county. The 11th takes in Will, Du Page, Kane, and McHenry counties. The 1st, 2d, 4th, 5th, 8th, and 9th lie wholly within Chicago.

Only four of the eight sitting Democrats are seeking renomination. The other four either were shelved by the Democratic organization or shifted to other spots on the primary ticket. Republicans are striving to capture these four "open" districts next November, as well as two or more of the four whose Democratic incumbents are struggling to hold their seats.

FEB 15 1942

Avoid Hasty Choices.

The G. O. P. politicos are moving with care and deliberation, indorsing only the highest type of candidate available, and avoiding hasty choices that might mar the harmony that has thus far characterized the party preparations.

Six of the 11 Chicagoland districts include south and southwest side territory. They are the 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, 6th, and 11th.

The 1st, 2d, 4th, and 6th are the districts whose Democratic incumbents are retiring. The 1st and 2d are the ones the Republicans are most hopeful of taking in November, and they are also expressing confidence that they can install one of their number in the 3d and perhaps the 7th.

Here are the salient facts concerning south and southwest side districts, with information about their political background and the candidates who filed soon after the opening deadline Feb. [New candidates can file until Feb. 23]:

FEB 15 1942

FIRST DISTRICT

This district, Republican for 30 years until the Democratic incumbent



was first elected in 1934, takes in the wealthy loop and the near south side which has a predominantly colored population. The late Martin B. Madden was its only representative from 1904 to 1928, when it elected Oscar de Priest, the first colored man of modern times to sit in the house of representatives. De Priest was beaten by Arthur W. Mitchell in 1934.

FEB 2 1942

Mitchell, never an aggressive representative of his race, was unceremoniously thrust aside by the Democratic slate makers this year to make room on the ticket for William L. Dawson, former alderman and now Democratic committeeman of the 2d ward, who fought Mitchell as the Republican congressional candidate in 1938, losing by a vote of 30,207 to 26,396.

Predictions that this Democratic move would cause a wide party split among the colored vote were strengthened by the early filings, which contained the name of Ald. Earl B. Dickerson [2d]. Dickerson, who, like Dawson, is colored, has a large following to whom the ex-Republican may not be acceptable, a fact upon which the G. O. P. workers are counting to bring them victory in November.

FEB 15 1942

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

The Nation's Capital

FEB 28 1942

By Insider

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The names of Dawson, Dickerson and King have been important names to conjur with in the public affairs of Chicago. In the near future 12,000,000 colored Americans will bless or curse one of them as the next Negro Congressman. With the announcement of the retirement of Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell, (Dem.) Illinois, the only Negro in the House or Representatives at present and the illness of former Congressman Oscar DePriest, it is inevitable a new and a younger man will come here as Chicago is the only city certain to send a colored man to Congress in the next election.



Mr. Dawson

William L. Dawson, Democratic Ward Committeeman of the 2nd Ward with more than two-thirds of the total vote (50,000) registered, in the 1st Illinois Congressional District, will be a big favorite to win the coveted honor and the incomparable opportunity to serve his people, country and United Nations barring unforseen political upets.

FEB 28 194

The late Congressman Martin B. Madden, Republican, who represented this same district for 28 years, was the Republican Ward Committeeman during that period. This office has been the key to the nomination of both parties. Under Committeeman Dawson, the ward was carried last year for President Roosevelt and the Democratic Party for the first time in its history. Mr. Dawson is well-known and singularly equipped intellectually and politically to do a highly successful and acceptable job of race representation on the floor of Congress and elsewhere.

"Bill" Dawson is self-made; one of God's regular fellows; knows what it is all about, having played the game with the best of them and coming out on top. Born in Georgia fifty years ago, he worked his way up North, stopping long enough in Nashville to get a college education and coming on up to the Windy City on Lake Michigan like many another. The great name of Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois, famed for its encouragement of promising Negro scholars, recommended by church leaders throughout the country, welcomed this ambitious young colored man. He graduated cum laudum and was awarded a degree in law. He has been a very active and successful practicing lawyer with offices in Chicago's imposing Loop buildings for twenty odd years associated with Hon. Herman E. Moore, Federal Judge of the Virgin Islands; Attorney William H. Haynes, a candidate for judge on the Republican ticket; J. Ernest Wilkins and Irving C. Mollison, a member of the Chicago Library Board, are members of this well-known law firm. Hon. Wendell E. Green, Chicago Civil Service Commissioner, now the first Negro candidate endorsed by the Democratic Party in Chicago for Judge of the Municipal Court, is his present running mate on the city, county and state ticket in the April primaries.

FEB 28 1942

William L. Dawson has fought, literally and figuratively, his way to the top and enjoys today the unquestioned right to speak unequivocally for rights of his people in the world's greatest law making body. He is no political "yes" man. His boss is and has always been "Bill" Dawson and the people he represents, whether as a soldier on the battlefields of World War I, in the courts, Alderman of the City Council where he served two terms, Industrial Commissioner of the State of Illinois for several years, as spokesman on a hundred platforms for the late Edward H. Wright, Chicago's most renowned and courageous statesman, who rivaled the great Frederick Douglass in the heights of statesmanship which he attained during this generation.

Candidate Dawson's friends elected him to represent the famed second ward as their spokesman in the City Hall while he lay on a hospital bed, recovering from the amputation of one foot, lost in a fall while catching a train to keep a speaking engagement for Congressman Oscar DePriest in 1930.

This man has had the right training and background anyway you look at it.

FEB 28 1942

It it well to record, too, he has never been beholding to any party, set of men or individuals. He defied the political bosses to run for Congress against Martin B. Madden, when no others would tackle the job. He fights hard and out in the open, undaunted, and he usually wins out. Dawson's private and public life are highly exemplary. He has no peer as an orator and organizer. His home life is ideal. Mrs. Dawson is a former native of Washington and his son and daughter are in college.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

OUR NEW ZONING ORDINANCE

MAR 28 1942

If the new zoning ordinance on which public hearings will be held later this month is enacted, approximately 41 per cent of the area within the corporate limits of Chicago will be rezoned as residential districts.

Alderman Arthur G. Lindell, under whose chairmanship a city council subcommittee spent two years on this measure, believes that unless the pattern embodied in this ordinance is followed, Chicago will continue to lose population to the suburbs. Population trends, according to the Chicago Planning commission, have for the past decade been toward the suburbs, leaving ever-expanding blighted areas in the heart of the city.

This is true not only of Chicago but also of all metropolitan centers where increased congestion forces the people out into outlying districts. Chicago doubtless needs to be groomed, and if the provisions of the proposed ordinance are carried out without racial bias, this city and its inhabitants will have gained something in esthetic beauty that will check the flight of the population into suburban areas.

But there is a great danger that those who are vested with authority to carry out the rezoning scheme may not give appropriate consideration to the interests of the Negro population. For instance it will be easy for the zoning law to be so applied as to follow the pattern of restrictive covenants against which we have fought and protested for many years. It is this pattern that has bottled up the Negro population of this city into a black belt where the physical capacity of the community is admittedly inadequate. Such a pattern creates congestion, high rent and a moral break-down of community organizations, giving rise to all sorts of juvenile delinquencies.

MAR 28 1942

Asides from the physical and moral aspects of this ordinance, there is also the political aspect which offers an irresistible temptation to those who would deprive the Negro of the political power which he now enjoys. The rezoning of residential districts will naturally affect political wards. Unless our leaders inquire very carefully into this matter, and keep their eyes open for any possible conspiracy, we may wake up one cloudy morning and find ourselves minus our political power. Anything may and can happen in this zoning scheme. Let us not be caught unaware.

52a-1942
Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

EARLY CONGRESS RETURNS INSURE BATTLES IN FALL

Republicans See Chances to Score Gains.

APR 15 1942

BY HAROLD SMITH.

Several hot congressional fights in the state's 25 congressional districts next Nov. 3, with an almost certain prospect of important new Republican gains, were foreshadowed by the early returns from yesterday's primaries.

A study of the indicated results showed that strong GOP candidates were chosen in five districts now in Democratic hands—the 1st, 3d, 7th, 22d and 23d. The primary campaigns also revealed that incumbent Republicans in the 9th, 18th and 25th districts must exert themselves to win over powerful Democratic opposition next fall.

GOP Leads, 14 to 11.

Democrats now hold only 11 of the 25 Illinois districts—the 1st to 8th, inclusive, and the 20th, 22d and 23d. The Republicans, who came out of the 1934 and 1936 elections with only six district seats, picked up four in 1938 and four more in 1940.

Reports from all parts of the state indicated the Democrats had lost ground this year principally because of administration fumbling in directing the nation's war effort. Most observers agreed that only a series of smashing allied victories between now and the election can save some of the state's Democratic congressmen.

One of the most interesting of yesterday's congressional contests was the 10th district G. O. P. scrap between Congressman George A. Paddock and former Congressman Ralph E. Church, who represented the district for six years before Paddock succeeded him in 1940.

APR 15 1942

Paddock Takes Early Lead.

That year Church tried for the G. O. P. nomination for United States senator. He filed again this year but withdrew. He waged a strong independent campaign for congress, but Paddock, with almost solid regular organization support, took a strong early lead and held it.

The 1st district, most of whose voters are colored, put on its usual two party show, the principals including three colored leaders of Chicago's teeming 2d ward. Former Ald. William L. Dawson, the G. O. P. nominee in 1938, apparently was pushed into the Democratic nomination this year. His chief rival was Ald. Earl B. Dickerson, who banished him from the council in the 1939 aldermanic elections. Former State Senator William E. King, the nominee in 1940, appeared to have won an easy Republican victory.

Kelly Wins Renomination.

In the 3d district Congressman Edward A. Kelly was renominated by the Democrats without incident. On the Republican side the regular candidate, Fred E. Busbey, was crowded most of the way by former Municipal Judge John H. Lyle.

Hottest of the downstate contests was the race for the Democratic nomination in the 22d district, from which Congressman Edwin M. Schaefer retired voluntarily. The big fight was between Schaefer's old secretary, Melvin Price, and Harry C. Odum of Madison, trustee of the east side levee district, about which a strong rival machine has been assembled. Robert V. Gustin, chief assistant state's attorney of St. Clair county, was also a contender in the early balloting.

Probable Metropolitan Winners.

Early and incomplete returns from the 10 congressional districts in Cook and Lake counties indicated the following probable victors, the asterisks [*] designating incumbents:

FIRST DISTRICT.

Democrat.	Republican.
William L. Dawson	William E. King

SECOND DISTRICT.

William A. Rowan	Thomas J. Downs

THIRD DISTRICT.

*Edward A. Kelly	Fred E. Busbey or John H. Lyle

FOURTH DISTRICT.

Martin Gorski	Arthur J. Rutishaw

FIFTH DISTRICT.

*Adolph J. Sabath	Clem Graver

SIXTH DISTRICT.

Thomas J. O'Brien	Raymond E. Trafelet

SEVENTH DISTRICT.

*Leonard W. Schuetz	James C. Moreland

EIGHTH DISTRICT.

Thomas S. Gordon	Rena E. Pikiel William W. Carren or

NINTH DISTRICT.

Irwin N. Walker	*Charles S. Dewey

TENTH DISTRICT.

Jack Bairstow	*George A. Paddock

Indicated Downstate Winners.

In the downstate congressional districts, fragmentary early returns give the following indicated winners, the asterisks [*] denoting present congressmen:

ELEVENTH DISTRICT.

Democrat.	Republican.
Joseph Sam Perry	*Chauncey W. Reed

TWELFTH DISTRICT.

Tony R. Berrettini	*Noah M. Mason

THIRTEENTH DISTRICT.

Michael M. Kinney	*Leo E. Allen

FOURTEENTH DISTRICT.

Robert M. Harper	*Anton J. Johnson

FIFTEENTH DISTRICT.

Montgomery B. Carrott	*R. B. Chiperfield

SIXTEENTH DISTRICT.

Eugene F. Cavanaugh	*E. M. Dirksen

SEVENTEENTH DISTRICT.

Frank Gillespie	*Leslie C. Arends

EIGHTEENTH DISTRICT.

Fred E. Butcher	*Jessie Sumner

NINETEENTH DISTRICT.

Alfred D. Huston	*William H. Wheat

TWENTIETH DISTRICT.

*James M. Barnes	Sid Simpson or Hardin E. Hanks

TWENTY-FIRST DISTRICT.

Thomas J. Lonergan or William P. Roberts	*Evan S. Howell

TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT.

Harry C. Odum or Melvin Price or Robert V. Gustin	Calvin D. Johnson

TWENTY-THIRD DISTRICT.

*Laurence F. Arnold	Charles W. Vursell

TWENTY-FOURTH DISTRICT.

Ivan A. Elliott	*James V. Heidinger

TWENTY-FIFTH DISTRICT.

Kent E. Keller	*C. W. [Runt] Bishop

Six incumbent Democrats were out of the primary for various reasons, most of them being either purged by the regular organization or shifted to new spots because they had displeased strong elements of their constituency.

FLASH!

Dawson Leads Dickerson In Chicago Primaries

CHICAGO—(By phone to PV).—The congressional race between William L. Dawson and Earl B. Dickerson in the primaries here Tuesday show Dawson leading two to one, with 83 out of 113 precincts reported in. At noon Wednesday, the count stood: Dawson, 4,696; Dickerson, 2,678. Heavy influx of money on the victorious side is charged by the Dickerson camp, which insists that the personalities of the two men failed to enter into the voting, that the Dawsonites threw huge reserves of poll workers into the pre-election campaigning.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland
APR 25 1942

Dickerson Loses in Congressional Race

CHICAGO—(ANP)—Replacing Representative Arthur W. Mitchell in the complete favor of the powerful Kelly-Nash machine, William L. Dawson defeated Alderman Earl B. Dickerson in the primary elections on April 14, by around 15,000 votes to 5,000, and will face his bitter political enemy, William E. King, Republican nominee, in the November voting for Congressman from the First Illinois District.

Although the Congressional race furnished the main fireworks, Dawson and King were not the only winners. Virtually complete election returns showed fifteen others won nomination for various offices on both major party tickets, including three for the county commission and two for the Municipal Court bench.

Dawson Once Republican

Dawson, a former Republican city councilman, has run for Congress before on the Republican ticket. It was here that his split occurred with King, former GOP State Senator, who has also run for Congress.

APR 25 1942

In their last primary battle for the Republican nomination, Dawson was victor only to lose to Mitchell in November. It was charged then that the King forces threw their weight behind Mitchell instead of the standard bearer of their party.

Since that time, Dawson has switched to the Democratic faith and is the committeeman of the Second Ward.

Machine Barred Dickerson

Dickerson, although Second Ward alderman and a Democrat of long standing, has never won the backing of the "regular" or Kelly-Nash combine, probably the strongest machine in the nation.

Some months ago Dickerson was promised the full support of the regular forces if he cared to run for judge, but was threatened with sure defeat if he ran for Congress against Dawson.

A member of the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice and one of the most articulate leaders in the nation, Dickerson counted on his highly publicized fight for racial rights to pull him through to victory, but his national recognition was not enough to beat the smoothly oiled machine.

May Support King

It is believed in some quarters that Dickerson may seek to throw his young organization behind King next fall. Political observers, who at first believed this year might see a Republican victory in November, believe that it will take the support of Dickerson and many others to gain a King decision. They point to the fact that, in Tuesday's primary, about 22,000 Democratic votes were cast, while only 12,000 Republican ballots were counted when King won by polling approximately 10,000 to 1200 for his closest rival, Bindley Cyrus, attorney.

Enemies Show Strength

Another barrier to a King triumph is his last-minute ditching of several candidates who were able to come through anyway without regular Republican organization backing.

State Representative Ernest Greene of the First District was dropped because his law partner, Mr. Cyrus, entered the Congressional race against King, and former Assemblyman Harris B. Gaines was ditched at the last minute in favor of a white candidate who had the backing of a business group with considerable cash in hand.

Both Greene and Gaines are listed as winners, although a contest may develop.

Judgeship Nominees

When Dickerson refused to withdraw from the Congressional race, the name of Wendell Green, civil service commissioner who was appointed as a Republican but changed to a Democrat, was placed on the judicial ballot. He was one of the twelve nominated.

Mr. Green, president of Provident Hospital, is recognized as

one of the foremost criminal lawyers in the nation.

On the Republican side a winner was Patrick B. Prescott, Jr., attorney, recently appointed by Governor Greene to fill out a Municipal Court vacancy, but kept from serving through a technicality.

Young DePriest a Victor

O. Stanton DePriest, son of former Congressman Oscar DePriest, and Dr. J. B. Martin, who has lived in Chicago since the police "reign of terror" against him in Memphis two years ago, won Republican nominations for the county commission. Edward M. Sneed, Democratic incumbent, was renominated.

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Wimbish won the nomination over State Senator William A. Wallace, dropped by the Kelly-Nash forces and fired from his job in the county building for supporting Dickerson.

The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.

Chicagoian Predicts A Democratic Swing

OCT 9 - 1942

OCT 9 - 1942

Washington, D.C., Oct. 9—"Colored politicians are agreed a month before the November elections that a large majority of the colored vote will go to Democratic candidates for the House and Senate," says William L. Dawson, Democratic candidate for Congress from the 1st district, Illinois.

"This belief is based on the gratitude of colored people to and their confidence in Presi Roosevelt and his conduct o war as well as his dom policies.

OCT 9 - 1942

"All of the 435 House seats are at stake and thirty-four Senators are being chosen, among them Democrats whose reelection is conceded.

"Colored politicians agree at the conduct of the war is the major issue. They are emphatic in saying that colored voters want Senators and Representatives elected who will support the President.

OCT 9 - 1942

"The attitude of colored voters, of course, is not strange. In their view, the President has been directly responsible for the acceptance of colored men in nearly all branches of the Army as both officers and enlisted personnel and their enlistment in the Navy in other than the mossman branch."

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

Your Congressman

(An Editorial)

NOV 1 - 1942

REPUBLICAN NOMINEES.

First district—William E. King.
Second district—Thomas J. Downs.
Third district—Fred E. Busbey.
Fourth district—Arthur J. Rutshaw.

The Tribune recommends to its readers that they cast their votes Tuesday for Republican nominees for congress. It makes this recommendation with the conviction that a Republican majority in the house is necessary to win the war and to save us from dictatorship.

NOV 1 - 1942

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NOV 1 - 1942

No matter how deep into disaster the administration leads us, no protection can be expected from the faceless men whom the Kelly-Nash machine has nominated and the Communists are supporting. They are pledged in advance to be rubber stamps. Their only promise is that they will abdicate all legislative power and do as the President tells them to do.

It is only by casting their votes for Republican congressmen that the people can obtain protection. A Republican vote is a vote to protect American young men from New Deal bungling of the war.

In the name of the war emergency the administration has been granted the widest powers over the daily lives of citizens ever in our history held by the government. Some of these restrictions may be necessary to the war effort. Others obviously are not. But, necessary or not, they give an nuscrupulous administration almost unlimited powers over the citizen. His living, his home, his automobile, his food all make him subject to political reprisal.

Any one who has the notion that the New Dealers are above using these powers for partisan advantage needs only look back to the WPA and relief. The reliefers and WPA workers retained their franchise, but they knew what would happen to them if they voted in the wrong primary or backed the wrong candidate. The solvent citizen today is under greater restraint today than the WPA worker was in 1938. The only defense against such abuses is a Republican majority in the house of representatives.

NOV 1 - 1942

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one of the foremost criminal lawyers in the nation.

On the Republican side a winner was Patrick B. Prescott, Jr., attorney, recently appointed by Governor Greene to fill out a Municipal Court vacancy, but kept from serving through a technicality.

Young DePriest a Victor

O. Stanton DePriest, son of former Congressman Oscar DePriest, and Dr. J. B. Martin, who has lived in Chicago since the police "reign of terror" against him in Memphis two years ago, won Republican nominations for the county commission. Edward M. Sneed, Democratic incumbent, was renominated.

Other apparent winners in the State Assembly races, in addition to Ernest Greene and Gaines, were Corneal A. Davis, Democrt, First District; C. C. Wimbish, Fred J. Smith, Democrats; Benjamin Clanton, Charles J. Jenkins and Dudley Martin, Republicans, Third District, and Emmett E. Page, Democrat, and William J. Warfield, Republican, Fifth District.

Wimbish won the nomination over State Senator William A. Wallace, dropped by the Kelly-Nash forces and fired from his job in the county building for upporting Dickerson.

The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.

Chicagoian Predicts A Democratic Swing

OCT 9 - 1942

Washington, D.C., Oct. 9—"Colored politicians are agreed a month before the November elections that a large majority of the colored vote will go to Democratic candidates for the House and Senate," says William L. Dawson, Democratic candidate for Congress from the 1st district, Illinois.

"This belief is based on the gratitude of colored people to and their confidence in Presi Roosevelt and his conduct o war as well as his dom policies.

"All of the 435 House seats are at stake and thirty-four Senators are being chosen, among them Democrats whose reelection is conceded.

"Colored politicians agree at the conduct of the war is the major issue. They are emphatic in saying that colored voters want Senators and Representatives who-

ted who will support the President.

"The attitude of colored voters, of course, is not strange. In their view, the President has been directly responsible for the acceptance of colored men in nearly all branches of the Army as both officers and enlisted personnel and their enlistment in the Navy in other than the mossman branch.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

Your Congressman

(An Editorial)

NOV 1 - 1942

REPUBLICAN NOMINEES.

First district—William E. King.
Second district—Thomas J. Downs.
Third district—Fred E. Busbey.
Fourth district—Arthur J. Rutshaw.

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The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.

VOTERS OPEN NEW DOOR; SEND TOWERS BACK TO LEGISLATURE

52a Kansas

NOV 6 - 1942

NEGROES MOVE FORWARD

According to unofficial returns "Bill" Towers has been re-elected as representative for the eighth district, and Fred White has been elected County Commissionr from the second district. Towers' election was expected. White's election represented ambition and desire on the part of the race, but also a consciousness of stubborn opposition that always makes struggle continuous until victory comes. And so, in the election of Fred White to a position never before held by a Negro, registers race progress. It is a stage of progress toward which The Plaindealer has pointed and worked constantly for the last several years. Eight years ago Dr. A. Porter Davis was close to the goal but lost in the count by a small margin that left hundreds guessing and this paper more determined. In the primary four years ago The Plaindealer backed the late Claude Jones within a few votes of the nomination. In the recent primary we refused to endorse or support some of our best supporters in order that there be no such division that would endanger Fred White's nomination, and the bold editorial in last week's paper made certain the success which, until then was all too doubtful. And so under the continuous pounding of The Plaindealer for a square deal for all and to inspire racial self respect and self help and solidarity, the race moves forward. And the end is not yet.

NOV 6 - 1942

This progress must not be mistaken—it MUST NOT be abused. It is in a real sense RACE PROGRESS. That is far different from what might be construed as advancement of an individual or a small group, no matter how ambitious. Fred White's election means that the race in this community is coming to sense its opportunities under the Democratic form of government, and can and will eventually respond to that type of leadership that will not quit nor falter in the endeavor to promote the welfare of the people. And this progress must take into account the goodwill, the fair mindedness and support of white people who are always ready to encourage a struggling people. For without their counsel, help and determination Mr. White could not have won the election. Nor was their interest limited to personal interest in Mr. White—they wanted to encourage and help a loyal, enterprising race group within their midst. They wanted to demonstrate their ability and willingness to put meaning into the democratic form of government. They did so and that is the way we move forward. Our white friends must know that the race is grateful for this encouragement and help.

NOV 6 - 1942

The margin by which Fred White won is not very large, and perhaps it is better to be that way. Victory is what was needed. This victory comes by so small a margin as to make it unnecessary for Mr. White and his immediate sponsers to bubble over with undue self inflation which might spoil the victory. No inflation is necessary and no elimination is possible, for if any influential factor had not functioned the victory would have been lost. Mr. White just CANNOT say to anybody, "I could have won without you." That is one virtue of a close victory where so many factors contribute to it. On the other hand everybody who wants to can claim credit for Mr. White's election. That is impossible where the margin is large. In this case the margin is small enough for any small group or large one with power to say, "You could not have won without us." Since The Plaindealer has been fighting for many years for just what happened Tuesday—fighting against great odds and often tremendous financial sacrifice—it is easy for thousands feel and to say that perhaps the most decisive single factor influence in the achieving the stage of progress for the e in Wyandotte County, Kansas, has been The Plaindealer. forty-four years a Kansas institution, always fighting the front line for the race and for goodwill and mutual between the races. Another word: Mr. White's election reward of the free voters for the loyalty of Negroes to best interest of the community. It is an honor to Mr. e. More, it is a responsibility to the people who made victory possible.



COMMISSIONER FRED WHITE, ELECT

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

NOV - 13 1943

An Election With a Lesson

The election of Fred White to be one of the three commissioners managing the most populous county in Kansas is a triumph for democracy. Now when we are fighting in all parts of the world for that principle, it is most heartening to find it practiced here at home.

It goes without saying that a man who has been subjected to the scrutiny of his fellow citizens in a primary, and then three months later is elected, gives promise of being qualified. The race that produced him, the society that prepared him, the friends who backed his candidacy, the public that approved their choice, the party system through which an individual enters public service are the glory of America.

While no man is entitled to credit for doing duty or being good, yet because some fall short of their best selves, events like this election should be made to teach a lesson. Negroes who have been saying "what's the use?" should learn from the election of Fred White that after all the man can be the builder of his fortune. Had there not been a candidate with qualifications proven in his life and the community's activities this thing could not have happened. Likewise had not Negro citizens had faith that democracy could be made to serve them and that they could serve it, White's candidacy would have died a-borning.

The Republican party in Kansas whose nominee White was, shares the credit for putting the democratic principle to work. White entered the race as the representative of a minority group. Following American practice, he won the nomination. Thereupon the Republican organization of Wyandotte county lined up in support of him like it did all other nominees. It too measured up to democracy.

While paying tribute to the friends, let's not forget that the opponents played the game the democratic way. Undoubtedly some unreconstructed rebels assailed the Negro candidate in antebellum fashion, but on the whole the Democratic party in Wyandotte county acted in keeping with Kansas spirit and opposed White without raising the race issue. Next time it may do as did Republicans, namely nominate a Negro to represent this area where the Negro population is heavy.

Not having attained perfection, it follows that some regrettable incidents happened during this campaign which resulted in the election of a Negro to the most important elective position won in years. The Negro masses kept pace with the march of events, and worked wholeheartedly for White's election. And so did some who occupy places of leadership. But we regret to say that it was otherwise with the majority of "leaders." Some ministers suddenly got so absorbed in preaching the Gospel that they excused themselves from applying it to practical every-day affairs. Some politicians, as was to be expected, took the thirty pieces of silver. These mental cowards and Judases, however, serve a good purpose. They bring out the more the high faith and the sterling loyalty of the average Negro who gave his home town a chance to demonstrate the workings of democracy so signally that if this election could be told to the hundreds of millions in Asia who yearn for liberty, they would see that it is to be found in the American way of life.

52a-1942
Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Anderson Files for Kansas Legislature

Stating as his solemn pledge that he would not accept a political job but would be the servant of the people, Floyd Anderson, 1200 Everett, long time salesman for the Sauce Electric company and Home Equipment company, has announced that he will be a candidate for representative of the Eighth District on the Republican ticket.

Friday night in the presence of more than 50 friends and supporters who gave their endorsement to his candidacy, Anderson announced that he has thrown his hat in the ring. He filed his name Friday, June 19, with the office of the county clerk his intention to become a candidate. He said that he had been urged by friends to seek this office because they had selected him as the man who could put over a program for the people of the District and the city at large.

Servant for His People

Anderson stated that being representative was a small matter in his life, but if he could be used as a servant to put over a program for his people he would gladly do his best to win the election and be a servant of the people.

The voters of the Eighth District have for several years desired a change but have manifested little effort to bring about that change until several months ago when a Floyd Anderson for Representative movement was started in practically every precinct. It has spread throughout the District, so much so until it is the general concensus as expressed by political leaders, ministers, professional workers, defense workers and laborers that it is necessary to make a change at this time.

In speaking Friday night to a small group at the Masonic hall, Fifth and Washington boulevard, Anderson said that the time had come when citizens must have free expression through the type of representation that is free to exercise the rights and privileges of one's constituency as expressed by their free will. "We simply cannot have a democracy if the will of the people is suppressed and our leadership is hampered in acting in defense of our cause. "So I pledge to you to fight for free government, freedom of speech, freedom of religion and freedom of the press in order that democracy will mean as much to my people as to others," Anderson stated.

He further stated that we are living in a community which is destined to be one of the greatest industrial centers in the United States and we must build our foundation so well that we can continue to be integrated into the industrial life of this community on permanent basis and not merely think in terms of political jobs where we have been poorly paid.

Forty Years in District

Anderson is 41 years of age and has lived in the Eighth legislative district for more than 40 years. He is a product of the Kansas City, Kas., elementary and high schools. He was president of both the junior class of 1918 and the senior class of 1919. He attended Meharry Medical college at Nashville, Henn., for two years and completed a course in business management from the La Salle Extension school of the University of Chicago.

He has made many friends in Greater Kansas City through church, social, sport, business and sales actiivties. For five years he was part owner of the B. and A. company, manufacturers, wholesale and retail distributors in schools and business places of Greater Kansas City. He was for three years manager of the Jones Cosmetic company heading a staff of office workers with salesmen and saleswomen in Kansas City, Topeka, Lawrence, Atchison, Leavenworth, Dodge City, Wichita, Coffeyville and points in Oklahoma and Missouri. For eight years he was one of the top salesmen of General Electric Appliance company connected with the Sauce Electric company. In 1939, he won a $75 radio in a radio sales contest. In 1940 he was awarded a beautiful $85 21-jewel gold Waltham watch engraved with his name and achievements.

In 1941 Anderson was made a member of the Toppers club by the General Electric Company. Only salesmen selling better than $10,000 worth of merchandise per year are eligible for this organization. He is listed in the General Electric Topper magazine of 1941. He was given a wall plaque now in his home with his name engraved on it. Anderson is now employed at the Home Equipment Store, dealers in General Electric appliances and household furnishings.

Anderson makes his home with a widowed mother, Mrs. Georgia Anderson, 1200 Everett a sister Mrs. Beatrice Anderson Herbert, former school teacher for 17 years in Kansas City, Kansas, a brother, Carey Anderson, a photographer and new car service man for the Union Chevrolet Company for the past 14 years and president of the Trouveur Boys club and Colleen Jones, adopted sister, a student of Sumner high school. He is president of the Board of Stewards of the St. Peters Colored Methodist Episcopal church, a member of the Century Republican club and one of the first mem-

KANSAS

bers of the Wyandotte Chamber of Commerce.

The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.

Promises Vs. Performances

In less than a month, the people of this state will walk to the polls to cast their ballots for men seeking public office. They will vote for those men on the basis of their records and promises. Candidates seeking public office for the first time may not have records as officials, but they do have records of some kind, either in business or on some job. The old candidates, who are seeking re-election have records and the people know what they have done. The people know whether or not they have performed or failed to keep their promises.

Let us brush up our memories before election day and do something about the fellows who have not kept their promises. If they fooled you before, they are likely to do the same thing this time. As long as they can use the Negro, pat him on the back and sweet talk him, they will do it. The only way to stop the fellows who make promises and don't keep them is to take them out of office.

You have the power to do so. And another thing, the fellow who comes forth with a promise without anything to back it shouldn't even be given a chance. Life is too short and expensive for us to always experiment. We should get some of the things we want before election day. Kansas Negroes have a great opportunity, but that opportunity is not being materialized because of the lack of the proper leadership in politics. Kansas Negroes will never achieve the things that they should or reach the proper goal until some changes are made. A race of people cannot advance on "nickel and dime" politics.

The white man gives in proportion to the demands made by Negroes all over this land. In the communities where Negroes ask for little, they get less. In communities where Negroes ask for much, they get more. Kansas is undergoing some radical changes just as the entire nation is during the present crisis. If Kansas Negroes are to maintain themselves in the economic and political life of the state, they had better start some radical changes right now or they will be left out of the picture. Let us not lose our heads over large defense checks and wake up to find ourselves and families out in the cold when the war is over.

There has been little campaigning up to the present. The Negroes know very little about the men seeking public office and what they intend to do. Nothing has been said about what Kansas intends to do about the Negro and Democracy on the part of candidates seeking high offices from Justice of the Supreme Court down to township offices. Has the campaign taken a lull in order that these issues might be side-tracked? None of the candidates seeking the office of Governor have said a word about what they intend to do above the same old program that has existed in Kansas for Negroes for the past 50 years.

If these men can't speak out on our situation now and let the people know where they stand on major democracy issues when the netire world is fighting for freedom, when your husbands, sons and sweethearts are dying, then every Negro in the State of Kansas should stay home on August 4 and not vote at all. You certainly cannot vote intelligently when you don't know what the candidates stand for relative to Kansas Negroes and democracy. If Negroes in St. Louis can march on a defense industry to break down discrimination, and if the Negroes of this nation can march on Washington, D. C. to protest against unfair play, then why can't the Negro of Kansas rise up and do something about their economic and political plight?

Promises won't solve our problems. We want to see some performance. The masses of voters want performances. Of course, there may be a few politicians of the old school who have been used to pulling the chestnuts out of the fire, but the fire is too hot for them now and they can't do much good. The masses are sidetracking the curb stone politician. Anybody who does not believe that we are right, just stick around awhile.

The Plaindealer.
Kansas City, Kan

WE CAN TAKE IT!

We take this opportunity to congratulate Representative William H. Towers for winning the nomination to the Eighth District. We opposed him bitterly in the Primary for which we offer no apologies. We congratulate him and concede his nomination because the majority of the people voted for him. In a Democracy the majority rules.

However, we still hold to our views. We still hold to the program and policies which we advocated against his nomination. We don't agree that the majority did the right thing.

As has been stated before, we have nothing personal against Representative Towers. We are fighting for a principle, a program and the virtue of the Negro race. We will continue to fight for that in spite of Representative Towers or anybody else. We believe and subscribe to a program that will advance the Negro in the economic, social, political and industrial life of this community. We believe in a program that will liberate Negroes from political bondage and make them free of bosism in order that they might enjoy the pursuit of happiness and freedom as other citizens. We believe and advocate that only men who are in a posaition to administer democracy in office are the right men to be placed in office in times like these when the whole world is fighting for Democracy.

As to the General Election which comes up in November, we are not declaring ourselves for either randidate at present. And we are not waiting for some one to put some money in the palm of the editor's hand to make up our minds. But we are waiting to see which one of the two candidates subscribes to our program, our policy and attitude in this mateer of race laadership and poblic officials representing Negroes. Our support will be decided when these two men present their cases to the public. Then we will let the people and the readrs of our paper know who we are for.

The candidate, Floyd Anderson, was backed by the Plaindealer as well as many other organizations, business men, professional and working people.

Anderson polled more than eighteen hundred votes. We are thankful to the eighteen hundred people who are backing our program and we wish to let them know that our program did not end with the defeat of Candidate Anderson on August 4th because we did win a moral victory and a movement was started in this community that will be continued in season and out of season untll some day victory will be ours.

We are not discouraged and we ask you not to be discouraged. We have not been humilated at all but rather some one else has been humilated when taking into consideration the two candidates, the people backing the two candidates and eliminating the city hall machine. The strength of the two men is known but note by the defeat and victory but by the true actions and convictions of the people, one prompted by following a program and policy of advancement of Negroes and another controlled by political jobs and money.

Again we congratuate Mr. Towers in his winning. And we thank him for his sportsman ship and fair play exhibited according to the rules of politics. We make this statement in order that the people may know where we stand in this matter.

We did no support any particular one of the candidates seeking the office of county commissioner because we did not approve of so many running, and we did not want to take part in what looked like a possible split. However we were for a Negro to win and we congratulate Fred White upon his victory. If there is anything that we can do to help him win in the General Election we will be glad to do so. That is, if he needs it.

Negro Representation

OCT 5 - 1942
Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.

To the Editor of The Courier-Journal.

In days past The Courier-Journal has said there ought to be a colored man on the Board of Aldermen and I think on occasion has said there ought to be a colored man on the Board of Education. Whether you ever said the latter or not I am sure you will agree there ought out of all fairness be one on the Board of Education; fairness, because there are five members of the Board of Education and the colored population is practically one-fifth of Louisville's total population. Since in every government bureau, project or unit involving all races there are colored sections to handle colored people's participation, why not a colored member of the board to look after the interests of colored teachers and pupils?

The Board of Education is not a social club or organization. A colored member would not affect the social standing of other members. Chicago has no segregated schools yet has a colored member on its Board of Education. Washington, D. C., like Louisville, has segregated schools and has a colored member on its Board of Education.

All that is leading up to this: Dr. P. O. Sweeney has been chosen by a group of Negro citizens to make the race for the Board of Education. Those espousing his cause think a colored man should be on the board. They also think, surely, there are many white citizens who see the fairness of that and will vote for Dr. Sweeney. Three persons are to be chosen in addition to two who do not have to run this year. Do not you, and other fair-minded white people, agree that to ask you to vote for Dr. Sweeney is a just and fair request?

Louisville. WILLIAM WARLEY.

OCT 5 - 1942

52a-1942

Age-Herald

Birmingham, Ala.

SEP 20 1942

Negro Pastor Won't Run

TUPELO, Miss.—(AP)—The Rev. James Arthur Parsons, 49, pastor of four Negro rural churches near here, Saturday said recent dispatches from Chicago that he would be a write-in candidate for Congress opposing Representative Rankin were a mistake and that he didn't intend to oppose Rankin. Chicago dispatches recently said the National Baptist Convention there had endorsed the parson's candidacy.

SEP 20 1942

Negro to Oppose Rep. Rankin

The Daily Telegram

By the United Press

SEP 11 1942

CHICAGO, Sept. 11.—The National Negro Council said today that it would attempt to elect a Negro Congressman from Mississippi with the aid of Negro soldiers under the proposed legislation granting members of the military service absentee ballots in national elections.

Edgar G. Brown, director of the council, said the Rev. James Arthur Parsons, a Negro Baptist pastor of three rural Mississippi churches, would oppose Representative Rankin, first district Democratic incumbent, in a write-in campaign. Mr. Brown said there were 12,000 Negro soldiers from the district.

SEP 11 1942

NEGRO MINISTER MAY OPPOSE RACE BAITER IN BALLOT

The Houston Defender

Houston, Tex.

SEP 19 1942

CHICAGO, Ill.—(ANP)—Delegates to the National Baptist Convention, unincorporated, in sessions here at Ebenezer Baptist Church last week endorsed tht movement lead by Edgar G. Brown, director of the National Negro Council, to elect a Negro to the congressional seat of Rep. John E. Rankin (Dem., Miss.), outstanding foe of the anti-poll tax amendment to the soldier's vote bill.

Named as candidate for the office is the Rev. James Arthur Parson of Tupelo, pastor of four churches iin Rankin's home district. That chances to defeat Rankin are excellent was indicated by figures presented by Brown in an address to the convention. He said Rankin was recently renominated by a total vote of only 6,000. The 12,000 votes of Negroes now serving in the armed forces would be sufficient to accomplish his political death, he added.

SEP 19 1942

Brown declare that of the 263,000 persons in the district about half are Negroes. The votes of persons left at home coupled with the solid soldier vote can assure Rev. Parsons of a congressional seat, he emphasized. A clause in the soldier vote bill provides for space to "write in" the candidate's name. Soldiers from Tupelo will be urged to name Rev. Parsons, he stated.

Memphis Tenn. Com'rcial Appeal

September 11, 1942

NEGROES PLAN CANDIDATE

Hope To Elect Mississippi Representative With Soldiers' Vote

CHICAGO, Sept. 10.—(UP)—The National Negro Council said Thursday that it would attempt to elect a negro representative from Mississippi with the aid of negro soldiers under the proposed legislation granting members of the military service absentee ballots in national elections.

Edgar G. Brown, director of the council, said Rev. James Arthur Parsons, a negro Baptist pastor of three rural Mississippi churches, would oppose Representative Rankin, First District Democratic incumbent, in a write-in campaign.

Brown said the National Negro Council would support Parsons "financially and otherwise," and would ask all negro soldiers from Mississippi's First Congressional District to write in the name of Parsons on their absentee ballots. Brown said there were 12,000 negro soldiers from the district.

Birmingham, Ala. News

September 12, 1942

Negro Baptists Elect Selma Man President

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—(AP)—The National Baptist Convention (Negro) Saturday elected the Rev. A. L. Boone, of Washington, D. C., vice president at large, and named three other preachers as regional vice presidents.

The three were the Rev. T. S. Harten, of Brooklyn, N. Y., the Rev. E. W. Perry, of Tulsa, Okla., and the Rev. W. D. Carter, of Oakland, Calif. Dr. D. V. Jemison, of Selma, Ala., was reelected president.

The convention heard an address by Edgar G. Brown, director of the National Negro Council, supporting the Rev. James Arthur Parsons, of Tupelo, Miss., as a write-in candidate to oppose Representative John Rankin in the First Congressional District Fall election. Brown said after the address that he was leaving for Tupelo, wheer he would work as campaign manager for the Negro pastor.

Life Threatened; Rev. Parson Moves Family To St. Louis

The Informer

Houston, Tex.

OCT 3 - 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Although the Rev. James Arthur Parson, of Tupelo, Mississippi, the write-in candidate in the November congressional election against incumbent John E. Rankin, has withdrawn his name because of threats upon his life, Edgar G. Brown, his campaign manager, indicated soldiers of the armed forces would be urged to vote for him.

Rev. Parsons was reported to have removed his family to St. Louis, for personal safety after certain political activity in his behalf resulted in intimidation and threats from whites who are opposed to a Negro running for office.

Brown said he had received a letter from the minister who pastors four churches in Tupelo, Rankin's home district, to the effect that he no longer considered himself a candidate for a seat from the first Mississippi congressional district.

The decision was made, stated the letter, "because life has been made unpleasant" with Tupelo citizens "demonstrating forcibly that they do not approve of the idea of a Negro running for congress."

Brown, who is also president of the National Negro council, said however, that every Negro soldier entitled to an absentee ballot from the first congressional district will be urged to ignore the minister's withdrawal and insert his name in the blank space on ballots provided for that purpose.

OCT 3 - 1942

Rankin bitterly fought the soldiers' vote bill recently passed by congress which allows men in the service to cast absentee ballots, principally because the bill carried a senate amendment which extended the vote to Negroes.

According to Brown there are 12,000 Negroes in the armed services from the district and their vote alone would almost insure Rev. Parson's election. Rankin was nominated by only 6,000 votes.

Should the minister be successful in the election he will be the first Negro to serve in congress from Mississippi since Reconstruction days.

OCT 3 - 1942

The Plaindealer

Kansas City, Kan.

OCT 9 - 1942

A THREAT TO MISSISSIPPI'S WHITE SUPREMACY

The state of Mississippi, often referred to as the worst place this side of hades, received a constitutional threat when a Negro minister announced that he would be a candidate for the United States Congress. This was really absurb, but yet sounded a warning to the forever domination of white supremacy. The white people in Mississippi took the matter seriously, because they chased the Negro minister out of the state—and now all is well, they think.

There are more Negroes in the state of Mississippi than whites and if ever they get their constitutional rights, it will be impossible to elect a white man to anything. And now Mississippi's single political standard is under fire that may result in a revolution of the political setup of the entire south.

Let us quote an editorial from a widely circulated white publication on the issue. The Christian Century writes in its October 7 issue under the caption "Candidate for Congress" (In Absentia).

The Editorial:

OCT 9 - 1942

When we learned that Negroes at the recent session of the National Baptist Convention had persuaded the Rev. James Arthur Parsons to run for Congress as write-in candidate in the first Mississippi district, we wondered what would happen. Now we know. The Rev. Mr. Parsons has found it expedient to leave his parish in Tupelo and take up temporary residence in St. Louis. Nothing untoward occured to Mr. Parsons. But he became convinced that his health would be better in Missouri than in Mississippi. He is no longer, he states a candidate for congress. So any threat to the candidacy of that rugged patriot and champion of white supremacy, the Honorable John E. Rankins, has been removed. The idea of running a Negro write-in candidate did represent a real threat to the continuation of Representative Rankin's bourbonesque type of statesmanship. It has been estimated that there are about 13,000 Negroes from the first district in the armed forces, and the law recently enacted would make them voters—if the ballots should reach them. The vote, in the white primary which nominated Mr. Rankin, totaled only about 10,000. Mathematically, therefore, the candidacy of the Rev. Mr. Parsons looked formidable. But no longer. "The boys" around Tupelo have seen to that. The incident is said to be regarded as humorous in many parts of the south. A Negro preacher began to develop delusions of gradeur, and then his bubble of self-importance burst. It is doubtful, however, whether that tenth of the nation with black skins will see the joke. They are people whose sense of humor seldom fails. But this denial of constitutional guaranteed civil rights is no longer a joke to them.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

WRITE-IN CANDIDATE FLEES AFTER THREATS

SEP 28 1942

Miss. Minister Quits Race; Still In Running, Brown Says

SEP 28 1942

WASHINGTON—(ANP) — Although the Rev. James Arthur Parson, of Tupelo, Miss., the write-in candidate in the November congressional election against incumbent John E. Rankin has withdrawn his name because of threats upon his life, Edgar G. Brown, his campaign manager, indicated soldiers in the armed forces would be urged to vote for him.

Rev. Parsons was reported to have removed his family to Saint Louis, for personal safety after certain political activity in his behalf resulted in intimidation and threats from whites who are opposed to a Negro running for office.

Brown said he received a letter from the minister who pastors four churches in Tupelo, Rankin's home district, to the effect that he no longer considered himself a candidate for a seat from the first Mississippi congressional district.

The decision was made, stated the letter, "because life has been made unpleasant" with Tupelo citizens "demonstrating forcibly that they do not approve of the idea of a Negro running for congress."

Brown, who is also president of the National Negro council, said however, that every Negro soldier entitled to an absentee ballot from the first congressional district will be urged to ignore the minister's withdrawal and insert his name in the blank space on ballots provided for that purpose.

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Rankin bitterly fought the soldiers vote bill recently passed by congress which allows men in the service to cast absentee ballots principally because the bill carried a senate amendment which extended the vote to Negroes.

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According to Brown, there are 12,000 Negroes in the armed services from the district and their vote alone would almost insure Rev. Parson's election. Rankin was nominated by only 6,000 votes

Should the minister be successful in the election he will be the first Negro to serve in Congress from Mississippi since Reconstruction days.

Gadsden, Ala., Times
September 15, 1942

Now After Rankin's Scalp

Next on the list of outstanding foes of racial equality, slated for liquidation, is Congressman John E. Rankin, of Mississippi, against whom an interesting plot is forming in Washington, as indirectly revealed by Collier's Weekly.

The poisonous tendrils of this plot reach out from the group of racial equality zealots who are behind the movement to give the vote to Negro soldiers regardless of whether or not they have complied with state laws respecting the payment of poll tax. Having succeeded in this move to nullify the laws of Southern states, they will next proceed to throw all their energies behind the move to do away with poll taxes entirely, and thereby throw elections open to all persons of all colors and degrees, whether they are qualified to vote or are disfranchised under wisely conceived laws.

When this end has been achieved, some colored Mississippian may easly be elected in the place of Congressman Rankin. In fact, with the whites greatly outnumbered in many counties, the whole delegation from Mississippi, including the Senators, might be Negroes were the right to vote conferred upon the colored population, as is sought under the anti-poll tax legislation.

To have a solid colored Congressional delegation from Mississippi would suit the racial-equality zealots down to the ground, but their chief objective is to bring defeat upon Congressman Rankin, who next to Eugene Talmadge, of Georgia, is the sharpest thorn in the side of this bunch that is out to mongeralize the South if such an unholy end can be brought about by legislative enactment or by pressure from Washington,

As a part of the general scheme, it is reported by the Associated Press that a number of Negroes will run for Congress in the South in the regular November election, the obvious purpose being to obtain a ruling from the United States Supreme Court that colored persons cannot be denied the right to vote in federal elections, regardless of what state laws may say about poll tax or other requirements.

The situation has become so grave that some one in authority might well call a conference of Southern Governors and Southern Representatives to map a unified course of procedure. Intelligently directed by persons high in the administration and helped along by such notables as Mrs. Roosevelt and Mr. Ickes, with the powerful backing of the Society for the Advancement of the Colored Race, the movement becomes more menacing with each passing day and it will not be circumvented by scattered and sporadic effort.

The most united and most determined effort will be required if the white people of the South are not to lose control in scores of counties where the colored population is in the majority and see hundreds of public offices fall to members of the opposite race. That's what the zealots are after and it is going to take tremendous effort to stop them.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
October 9, 1942

New Deal Plans for South?

For The New Republic, New York weekly, New Deal, Liberalite, staunch and enamoured supporter of President Roosevelt, Helen Fuller writes each week of political contests in states and congressional districts, and in her article in the issue of October 5 she writes this:

"Mississippi. Watch for some startling news out of Mississippi shortly. Definite plans are under way for the entrance of a Negro woman into the congressional election there this fall. If her candidacy becomes a reality it will be the first time there has been a bona-fide Negro candidate in Mississippi since the Forty-seventh Congress, sixty years ago."

The News and Courier receives as information Miss Fuller's news but declines to be "startled" by it.

No one questions the right of a negro woman to offer for congress in Mississippi or other state, votes for her should be honestly counted and no fraud or intimidation should be practiced or tolerated. White people, negroes too, in Mississippi, have the right to vote against her if they so wish. White people's right to exclude her or other negroes from their primaries is not questioned except by New Dealers.

Miss Fuller's paragraph prompts two questions. One is: How and why does this incongruous piece of news come out of New York before it is news in Mississippi?

Would the negro woman be the candidate, not of Mississippi negroes, but of white and negro Liberals and New Dealers of New York city? If they, white and colored men and women of New York and Washington, wish to go to Mississippi, speak and work for the election of a negro woman to congress, they have the lawful right so to do, and The News and Courier advises that no one molest them as long as they shall not be guilty of disorderly conduct.

The second question: Is this New Deal weekly of the great city favorable to the election of a negro woman over a white Democrat in Mississippi?

(Mississippi Democrats voted for President Roosevelt in the elections). Would it turn its back on Mr. Roosevelt's Southern supporters because they are not negroes?

Would The New Republic ask for the election of a negro candidate though it involved the defeat of a Southern New Deal and Roosevelt candidate?

The publication of the paragraph is equivalent to suggestion, promotion and encouragement of the negro woman's candidacy. For no other reason is it conceivable that it would have been published in New York earlier than in Mississippi.

Have these Roosevelt Liberals of the North reached the conclusion that the Roosevelt party cannot trust the white Rooseveltians in the South and that the time has come for the New Deal to place its hope in a Souther negro party?

If the negro woman shall be a candidate, she will of course run against a white Democrat in Mississippi. That, presumably, will please The New Republic. It may be for the negro though it involve desertion of Mr. Roosevelt.

52a-1942
Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

MISSOURI

Victors In Election



LANGSTON HARRISON
Republican
Constable

NOV 6 - 1942



ATTY. EDWIN S. KINSWELL
Democrat
Member of the Legislature

NOV 6 - 1942



ELLIS JONES
Republican
Constable



DR. G. J. DIXON
Republican
Justice of the Peace

NOV 6 - 1942



WILLIAM A. MORANT
Republican
Constable

Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

THE RECENT ELECTION

The results of the recent local election show that the Negro vote is still the balance wheel which may swing victory or defeat to either of the major political parties.

The gains, or the inroads made in the Negro strongholds by the Republicans were not a mere accident. Figured from a mathematical standpoint, the Republicans had many advantages in their fight to regain the Negro vote.

Viewing the setup and noting the factors which played an important part in the game, we see in favor of the Republicans, nine Negro men and women as a part of the GOP City Central Committee, and three members of the Republican State Committee. These nine and three equal twelve race man and women who are vital cogs in the GOP organization. And don't let anyone fool you into thinking that these members of the race don't wield a deal of influence among their people from a political standpoint. Then, too, the long record of office holding of the GOP "Big Four" in the Fourth Constabulary District has its influence on voters in the district.

On the other hand, there are only two of our race who are members of the Democratic City Central Committee, one man and one woman. Counting on strength to strength, the GOP had the advantage of 12 to 2.

In this connection let us see what would have happened November 3 had there been a Negro Democratic Committeeman in the Sixth Ward for the past four years. Is there any doubt that John B. Sullivan would have been reelected to Congress in the 11th District? Sullivan, Democrat, lost to his opponent Louis E. Miller, Republican, by about 500 votes. Is there any doubt that a Negro Democratic committeeman in the Sixth Ward where Miller received the largest majority would have been able to control at least one-third or one-half. of the voters in the ward? We think not. In the Nineteenth Ward where Jordan W. Chambers and Mrs. Ardania Morgan, Democratic committeeman and committeewoman, were pitted against committeeman Dr. G. J. Dixon and committeewoman Mrs. J. B. Madison, Republicans, the results were quite different—see?

We make this statement because the Democratic vote in the Sixth Ward in particular, was negligible and it looks to us as though conditions will be worse for the Democrats in the future unless an aggressive leader is elected in that ward.

Of course, this comment is based on our belief in the two-party system and our belief in the efficacy of Negroes taking an active part in the political affairs of both major parties. In the meanwhile, it should be borne in mind that politics is the science of government and should be treated and handled just as scientifically as one would a mathematical or chemical problem.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Missourians Fail To Elect Knox, Watkins

NOV. 13 1942

T. B. Watkins and L. Amasa Knox, the two Kansas City Negroes running in the election were defeated by their white Democratic opponents. They made good showings, however. Watkins lost by only 604 votes. Knox needed 1,541 to win.

Watkins was running for representative to the Missouri legislature from the fourth district. His opponent was Thomas J. Gill, a member of the Jeffersonian Democratic club of 15th St. who has been a member of the legislature since 1937.

The final count was:

Gill	6,306
Watkins	5,702

Knox was a candidate for justice of the peace in the sixth district, Kaw township. He was defeated by Henry McKissack, incumbent, also a member of the 15th St. organization. The final count was:

McKissick	2,894
Knox	1,353

The candidacies of Watkins and Knox were sponsored by the Kansas City Negro Civic committee headed by Dr. J. E. Perry.

Work Not Ended

Following the election, Dr. Perry said that the work of the Civic committee has not ended although the election is over. The Civic committee will continue to exist for the purpose of working for those things which will improve the status of the Negro in Kansas City and to show Negroes how to make the ballot serve them.

"We will begin an educational program which we hope will bring forth more successful results the next time Negroes run for office in this city."

Dr. Perry cited the difference in performance at the polls in Kansas City, Kas., and Kansas City, Mo. "The Negroes on the Kansas side," he said, "have learned to support one another. We haven't learned that yet here in Missouri. One of the duties of the Civic committee will be to instill in Negroes a pride in themselves which would inspire them to want to be represented in government units in ci[illegible]ounty and state."

In contrast [illegible]nsas City's failure to elect a Negro to office, St. Louis elected one state legislator, two justices of the peace and three constables. Kansas City, Kas., elected a state legislator and a county commissioner.

If every Negro living in the districts where Watkins and Knox ran had voted for them, the two Negro candidates would have been elected without question.

Through the work of the Civic committee, Watkins and Knox, however, received a larger percentage of the Negro votes than Negro candidates have received in past elections.

Carried Fourth Ward

Watkins carried the fourth ward, defeating Gill 2,049 to 1,732, but trailed him in the other wards. Gill held the edge over Watkins in the second, eleventh, sixth, ninth, thirteenth and fourteenth wards.

For Watkins to carry the fourth ward by a substantial majority is a big gain. It will be recalled that in the county election two years ago, Negro candidates lost the fourth ward.

Watkins and Knox had the support of many Negro Democrats who crossed party lines for the sake of attempting to elect a Negro to the Missouri legislature. This accounts in large measure for the success in the fourth ward.

The majority of Negroes voted "Yes" on the proposal to hold a constitutional convention. In the fourth ward the total proposal was: Yes, 1340; No, 497. In the second ward, the vote was: Yes, 1,146; No. 467.

Negro voters also favored State Constitutional Amendment No. 1 which gives St. Louis county the right to use certain funds for its schools. The court in the fourth ward was: Yes, 1,550; No. 337. Ezra Turner, school principal in St. Louis county, conducted a successful campaign for this amendment throughout the state. The vote in the second ward was: Yes,

Favor Amendments

1,509; No, 339.

Negro voters also favored the two city charter amendments.

Judge Marion D. Waltner, who was not retained as judge of the Independence division of the circuit court was supported in the Negro districts. In the fourth ward, there were 1,313 "yes" votes for Waltner as compared with 1,951 "yesses" for Waltner and 779 no's."

Lloyd W. King, Democratic candidate for state superintendent of schools, was supported in Kansas City and Jackson county but he lost to Roy Scantlin, Republican of Neosho.

In the fifth congressional district, Roger Slaughter, Democrat defeated Innis for election to congress. In the fourth ward, Slaughter received 2,967 votes; Innis, 1,876. In the second ward, the count was Slaughter, 3,448; Innis 1,298. C. Jasper Bell, Democrat, was reelected in the fourth district, defeating John Mitchell, Republican.

Bernard T. Flannery was returned to office as clerk of the circuit court. Flannery defeated Elsa Ripley, Republican. Flannery received the support of Negroes because he has appointed several Negroes to white - collar jobs in his office.

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Argus

St. Louis, Missouri

HANNEGAN FOR COLLECTOR

MAR 2 0 1942

There seems to be much ado in one of the local dailies about the proposed appointment of Robert E. Hannegan as Collector of Internal Revenue for the city of St. Louis.

It is noticeable that no charge is made against Mr. Hannegan, per se. He is a lawyer in good standing and enjoys the respect of both the bench and the bar in this city and state. No charge is made of the man's being dishonest in his dealings with his fellowman; nor is it charged that he is morally unfit for the office; nor can it be said that he would be unable to qualify and perform his duties as capably as any other man who might be selected. But the sin with which he is charged is that he happened to be chairman of the Democratic City Central Committee during the past eight years and in the course of things this committee, under Mr. Hannegan's leadership, approved of an investigation of the alleged vote fraud which Mr. Hannegan was informed would show that Lawrence McDaniel and not Forrest C. Donnell was elected governor of the state at the polls in November, 1940.

MAR 2 0 1942

In fairness to Mr. Hannegan it must be stated that the City Committee, like the county committees throughout the state, acted upon information received from C. M. Hulen of Moberly, Missouri, chairman of the State Democratic Committee. Mr. Hulen stated that he had the evidence to prove his contention and the approval of the investigation by the Democratic City Committee was to all intents and purposes, a normal action. And the fact that the recount of the votes did not substantiate Mr. Hulen's contention is no reason to put the blame on the shoulders of Robert E. Hannegan or for his enemies (not his friends) to dog him as leper or untouchable, or as one unworthy of the confidence of his fellowman.

MAR 2 0 1942

Everybody knows that party committees seek to control politics in their communities. That is the purpose for which they are appointed. When the Republicans were in power a few years ago, there was much talk about the "courthouse ring" because the Republicans were in power and they controlled the political situation in St. Louis. Mayor William Dee Becker of the city of St. Louis, as well as Director of Public Welfare Henry S. Caulfield, were regarded as members of the courthouse ring at that time. And we do not hear a great deal of noise over the fact that Mr. Becker is Mayor of St. Louis and Mr. Caulfield is Director of Public Welfare.

It may be further stated in Mr. Hannegan's favor that when his friends became interested in him for the office of Collector of Internal Revenue of this district, he resigned as chairman of the Democratic City Central Committee. If, as the Post Dispatch says, the issue was not "Robert E. Hannegan, the individual," then w y, since he has resigned from the City Central Committee, does the attack upon him continue? It does not take a lawyer to understand that the whole thing is a matter of politics.

MAR 20 1942

Finally we wish to state that it is unfair to Robert E. Hannegan to attempt to rob him of the benefit of his political influence. Every man in public office today is there as a beneficiary of his political influence—if not directly, then indirectly. We do not believe that Senators Bennett C. Clark and Harry S. Truman would have endorsed Hannegan for this purpose had he not been worthy. Therefore, the public will, we are sure, disregard all of this noise about Hannegan's unfitness and chalk it up to mere political shadow boxing.

Kansas City Call

Kansas City, Mo.

THE CITY ELECTION

MAR 2 8 1942

The city election is upon us, requiring a decision between two groups of candidates, one made up of Republicans and Democrats representing the present city administration and the other all Democrats.

With that the line-up, choice for most voters will be difficult. They can neither vote 'em blind, following their party affiliations, nor forget their partisanship and decide entirely by the merits of candidates.

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To our way of thinking one principle is involved which should be paramount in this election. Up until this charter became its law, Kansas City was a partisan battle ground and gloried in it. It decided on a change, and then recanted on its decision. It made a new charter calling for no party tickets. But both parties offered strictly party tickets in the first charter election. Three hundred votes on Vine street, changed over to the winners gave the Democrats the victory. Party government went on as before, different in procedure, but not in essence.

Two years ago again the people longed for non-partisan government and proceeded to replace the Democratic administration with one headed by Mayor John B. Gage. Gage and his associates are now up for public judgment on their services.

In these days, when new industries are coming into the middle-west, it makes a difference what local government we have. Investors are not attracted to communities where shifts are the fashion. They want to know what to expect. If we again recant on a decision, if our protest vote of two years ago is not followed up, we cannot assume prospective investors that we know what we are doing.

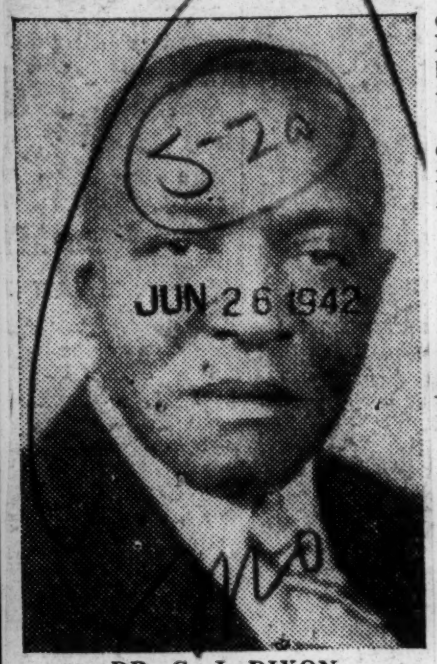
MAR 2 8 1942

The Gage administration should have a term on its own. It has spent two years getting ready. Now let it go back and show us what non-partisan government can do. If it makes good, next election we will have the pattern set for all time, and will keep our party groupings in the state and national elections where parties are clearly in the public interest.

Being a Negro newspaper, and the mouthpiece of a group that has to fight hard for a square deal, we are anxious to find some kind of city government that will offer us opportunities in the public employ, and aid in getting private employ. We know what parties gave us. In the days of pure partisanship we were not given our due. We try non-partisan government in the hope we will get whatever we merit.

Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

Files for Justice



DR. G. J. DIXON

The Republican party was hailed this week by Dr. G. J. Dixon, prominent civic leader and committeeman of the Nineteenth ward, as a dynamic force for good government and an instrucmentality through which Missouri and St. Louis Negroes can expect to attain the highest form of participation in the affairs of the city and state, in a statement issued by Dr. Dixon announcing his candidacy for Justice of Peace in the Fifth Constabulary district and outlining his achievements and those of the Republican party.

Known among his supporters and others as a hard party worker Dr. Dixon cited accomplishments of the past year to warrant public support in the August primaries. He said that one year ago there was only one Negro in the sanitary department of the city holding a supervisory position, but today there are 10 high salaried Negroes with supervisory jobs.

The opening of the city sanitorium to colored women seeking employment was teamed an achievement of Dr. Dixon in his effort to improve the economic condition of the race.

Dr. Dixon considers the decision to give jobs to colored women at Koch hospital as the most outstanding act this year on his part to help the group. Early this month he had an hour-and half conference with Dr. George D. Kettlekamp in which the two worked out plans whereby colored women were employed in an institution where colored had never worked before.

It is felt by the supporters of Dr. Dixon that the voting public and the general citizenry will look with favor upon a man determined to work for the economic betterment of the race.

In his many activities Dr. Dixon declares that he has found Mayor William Dee Becker "to be cooperative in every undertaking."

Dr. Dixon has practiced medicine here for 25 years. His office is at 1048a N. Vandeventer. He is a member of the Calvary Baptist church; and is an Elk and a Mason.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Kansans Assured Of a Seat

Negro to Run For High County Post in K. C. K.

Missouri Negro citizens have the opportunity to send representatives to the state legislature, with the nomination of one Kansas Citian and three St. Louisans for the race. Results of last Tuesday's primary show that wise voting in November can send one or more Negroes to the state lawmaking body.

Kansas will again have a Negro representative, because William Towers, Republican incumbent, is in the race again against a Negro opponent, young Attorney Cordell Meeks, Democrat.

Nomination of a Negro, Fred White, in the county commissioner race in Kansas City, Kas., was being hailed as a victor in the Heart of America last week-end. Although he had two Negro and two white opponents, White was the winner in the primary as the second district candidate. Over half of the voters in the second district are Negroes, and they hope to place White in the commissionership, a position of much influence.

Five Negro candidates emerged victorious from the primary election Tuesday, August 4. Three were elected to county committees and two were nominated to run in the general election in November.

The primary winners are:

T. B. Watkins, Republican candidate for representative in the state legislature from the 4th district.

L. Amasa Knox. Republican candidate for justice of the peace in the 6th district.

James Monroe Gilmore, Republican committeeman from the 4th ward.

Jean M. Adams, Democratic committeewoman from the 4th ward.

Marie Waters, Republican committeewoman from the 2nd ward.

These five are the survivors from a list of 9 Negro candidates in the primary.

Gilmore, Miss Adams, and Mrs. Waters were elected to the county committees in the primary and will not have to run in the November election. Watkins and Knox will have Democratic opponents in the fall election.

In the primary, Watkins defeated James D. Pouncey, attorney, by a count of 1,555 votes to 709. In the November election, Watkins will run against Thomas J. Gill, Democrat, who polled 4,534 votes.

Knox polled 549 votes, defeating Peter A. Eschenbrenner, white, who received only 98 votes.

In the Democratic primary for justice of the peace of the 6th district, Carl R. Johnson, attorney, lost to Henry McKissick, white, of the 15th St., Democratic organization. McKissick received 2,376 votes, while Johnson received 209. Knox will run against McKissick in November.

In the fourth ward race for county committee posts, Gilmore defeated James H. Herbert, attorney, 667 to 374.

Gilmore, president of the Fourth Ward Republican club with headquarters at 2429 Vine, suceeeds T. B. Watkins as committeeman. Before the primary election, Gilmore said that he was not Fred Richardson's candidate, that if elected he would be his own committeeman and would not take dictation from Richardson, an enemy to Negroes, or from anyone else except the Negro public.

Hazel V. Steele, white, Gilmore's running mate on the Republican ticket, was reelected committeewoman, defeating Gladys Page, Negro "write-in" candidate, who was running with Herbert.

Although her name was not on the ballot and voters had to write-in her name, Mrs. Page received 332 votes. Hazel Steele, politician of long standing, received only 802 votes.

The "write-in" campaign for Mrs. Page was one of the most remarkable things that Negroes in Kansas City have done politically.

Mrs. Page, who lives at 2434 Forest, entered the race only a few days before the primary election. She was supported by a group of Ngroes who wanted to see a Negro commiteewoman from the fourth ward.

With only a few days campaign Mrs. Page received 332 "write-in" votes. Few "write-in" candidates succeed in getting more than a dozen or so votes.

On the Democratic side in the fourth ward, Jean Adams was the only successful Negro candidate. She polled 1,567 votes to defeat Etta Barron, white, 710 votes, and Ruby C. Johnston, white, 156 votes for county committeewoman. Miss Adams is the only Negro Democratic candidate to survive the primary.

Miss Adams is the second Negro woman ever to be elected committeewoman from the fourth ward. The first, the late Mrs. Lettie Jordan, was elected two years ago. She died in office.

Dr. J. R. Williams who ran for Democratic committeeman from the fourth ward made a good race, but was defeated by S. Goodman, white. Goodman received 712. Goodman was supported by the Pendergast-Shannon organization while Dr. Williams ran as an independent. He had no organizational support and did not conduct a campaign.

In the second ward, Mrs. Marie Waters was reelected Republican committeewoman, defeating Mrs. Zula G. Butler. Mrs. Waters polled 354 votes while Mrs. Butler received 298. Carl W. Junior, white, who was running for committeeman with Mrs. Butler, was victorious over Harry E. Webb who was running with Mrs. Waters.

George E. Anderson, candidate for Republican committeeman from the second ward, ran third receiving 89 votes.

A movement is being started in the Negro community to bring about the election of the two Negroes who will be on the ticket in November.

Many Democrats have pledged their support to Watkins and Knox. Dr. Williams who polled 712 votes for commiteeman said that he would throw his support to the two Negro Republicans who are running in November and would urge those who voted for him to support Knox and Watkins.

Negro voters will be urged to split their tickets in November to vote for Watkins and Knox.

At a pre-primary rally Monday night at 17th and the Paseo, Q. J. Gilmore, a long-time Democrat, pledged his support to Watkins and Knox. The out-door rally was preceded by a parade led by the Elks' band. Gilmore is exalted ruler of the Elks.

Dr. J. E. Perry, who is leading the "Elect a Negro in November" movement, presided at Monday's meeting. Speakers included the Rev. S. W. Bacote, the Rev. C. A. Williams, the Rev. D. A. Holmes and Candidates Watkins, Herbert and Knox.

Lloyd W. King won the Democratic nomination for public school superintendent. C. Jasper Bell won the Democratic nomination for congress from the fourth district, and Roger C. Slaughter, who had headquarters at 19th and Vine.

Ben Norberg won the Democratic nomination for clerk of the county court. He told The Call that if elected in November, he will appoint a Negro to a position in his office.

Ben Davis Gets My Vote--Powell

The Daily Worker OCT 30 1942
N.Y. Age OCT 30 1942

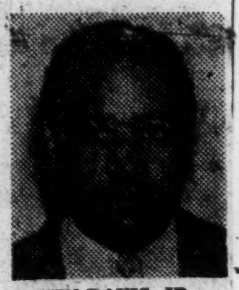
By Abner W. Berry

Calling on their readers to abandon party labels and vote for win-the-war and Negro rights candidates The New York Age and People's Voice, influential Harlem weeklies have editorially endorsed the candidacy of Benjamin J. Davis Jr., for Representative-at-Large. This is the first time endorsements have been given by these papers to a Communist candidate.

OCT 30 1942

Councilman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., editor of People's Voice, in his column "Soapbox" writes:

"For too long, Negroes have been chosen to run for only those offices that represent Negroes only. On the other hand, hundreds of white candidates come before us each year for country-wide, city-wide and nationwide positions. It is time that the Negro participated in the political scene as members of this democracy not just as Negroes. This is one reason I have always given credit to the Communist Party because they have had the courage to run Negro people in national, state and county elections.



BEN DAVIS, JR.

"Ben Davis, Jr. deserves the vote of every Negro. He comes from a great Georgia family. His education lifts him head and shoulders above the usual run of the mill Congressmen. The Negro vote is so important that major political parties could easily run a Negro for the position of Congressman-at-Large instead of the nonenities that are now running. My vote goes to Ben Davis, Jr."

OCT 30 1942

'AGE' BACKS DAVIS

Following up its endorsement last week of Mr. Davis, **The New York Age** this week devotes an editorial to the reasons for that action. Answering those who criticize endorsement of Communists the editorial reads in part:

"The support of Mr. Davis' candidacy were based on two propositions:

OCT 30 1942

"1. He is a member of the same racial group with which we are affiliated and in our opinion his radicalism is based more on a sense of grievance against the ills the Negro people suffer in this country because of their race and color than on any allegiance to a foreign power.

OCT 30 1942

"2. That the only way in which we can get national unity is for all of us to forget pre-war prejudices and animosities and start wholeheartedly behind any leadership that is for winning the war. We must sink personal and party differences during the war emergency for a larger cause—that of winning the war."

People's Voice is a militant, popular pro-labor tabloid.

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Other significant indorsements are:

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OCT 30 1942

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These indorsements, Harlem political observers agree, indicate a breakdown in old political alignments among the Negro people. Many see in these later developments a realization of former predictions to the effect that Mr. Davis' candidacy would affect profoundly the relationship of the Negro people to all political parties.

ANDREWS, BURROWS AND JACK RETURNED TO ASSEMBLY

New York Age NOV 7 - 1942

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Ben Davis Gets My Vote--Powell

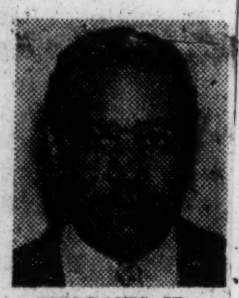
The Daily Worker OCT 30 1942
N.Y. Age OCT 30 1942

By Abner W. Berry

Calling on their readers to abandon party labels and vote for win-the-war and Negro rights candidates The New York Age and People's Voice, influential Harlem weeklies have editorially endorsed the candidacy of Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., for Representative-at-Large. This is the first time endorsements have been given by these papers to a Communist candidate. OCT 30 1942

Councilman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., editor of People's Voice, in his column "Soapbox" writes:

"For too long, Negroes have been chosen to run for only those offices that represent Negroes only. On the other hand, hundreds of white candidates come before us each year for country-wide, city-wide and nationwide positions. It is time that the Negro participated in the political scene as members of this democracy not just as Negroes. This is one reason I have always given credit to the Communist Party because they have had the courage to run Negro people in national, state and county elections.



BEN DAVIS, JR.

"Ben Davis, Jr. deserves the vote of every Negro. He comes from a great Georgia family. His education lifts him head and shoulders above the usual run of the mill Congressmen. The Negro vote is so important that major political parties could easily run a Negro for the position of Congressman-at-Large instead of the nonenities that are now running. My vote goes to Ben Davis, Jr."

OCT 30 1942

'AGE' BACKS DAVIS

Following up its endorsement last week of Mr. Davis, **The New York Age** this week devotes an editorial to the reasons for that action. Answering those who criticize endorsement of Communists the editorial reads in part:

"The support of Mr. Davis' candidacy were based on two propositions: OCT 30 1942

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THE ELECTION RESULTS

THERE WAS general satisfaction with the results of last week's election, especially in New York State where the Republican party was returned to power after an absence of twenty years. Throughout the country the Republicans made gains and this has been interpreted as a sign of dissatisfaction with the conduct of the war.

While the rest of New York was going Republican, Harlem was voting to retain its Democratic representatives in both the upper and lower houses of the legislature. This may be interpreted as approval of these representatives, or as apathy on the part of Negroes to change.

The result in the 19th Senatorial District is still in doubt and will not be known until the official canvass of the votes is made this week. One of the contributing factors of the close vote between Ludlow W. Werner, Republican candidate and Charles Perry, white incumbent, was the presence of the American Labor Party candidate's name on the voting machine. Although Mr. Stevens did not make a campaign and asked his friends to vote for Mr. Werner, his declination was too late to prevent his name appearing on the machine and with members of his party voting the straight ticket, he polled more than 2,800 votes. Tad these votes gone to Mr. Werner, the results would not now be in doubt.

That there is a widespread demand for Negro representation in the State Senate was shown by the fact that the Republican candidate received half of the votes in a district that for two decades has been overwhelmingly Democratic.

Generally speaking, the Negro voters held their own but made few gains as a result of the election. Attorney William L. Dawson, Democrat, won out in the Congressional race in the First District of Illinois to succeed Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell, who did not stand for re-election.

We believe, however, that the election showed a swing back to the Republican party by Negro voters in many pivotal states and we think the GOP has a splendid opportunity to prove to the Negro that his vote is appreciated by according to him proportional representation in the councils of the party and in the distribution of party patronage.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Werner Charges Southern 'White Supremacy' Theorists Have Metropolitan Counterpart

SEP 19 1942

SEP 19 1942

Unlimbering the heavy ammunition in his campaign to unseat Charles Perry, white Democratic incumbent, in the contest for State Senator in the 19th Senatorial District, Ludlow W. Werner, GOP designee, this week charged that the "white supremacy" exponents of the Southern States have their counterpart in the Tammany Hall organization right here in New York City.

The New York Age managing editor, and grandson of former Alderman Fred R. Moore, whose GOP candidacy has been endorsed by both right and left wing divisions of the American Labor Party, coupled the race-baiting tactics called into play by the political sponsors of Governor Eugene Talmadge of Georgia in the latter's recent unsuccessful primary fight against Ellis Arnall, with the refusal of white Tammany Hall leaders to designate a Negro candidate Harlem's 19th District, in spite of the fact that this district's constituency is sixty per cent Negro.

"The average voter in the 19th is awakening to the fact that Tammany Hall's failure to recognize the just claim of Negroes according to their voting strength is just as criminal above, as below the Mason-Dixon Line," Werner declared in a formal statement issued from his headquarters, 230 West 135th street.

SEP 19 1942

52a-1942
New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Legislature Plans Negro State Senate District In Harlem

MAR 21 1942

ALBANY, N. Y.—In its proposed reallocation of State Senate seats, the New York State Legislature's Reapportionment Commission has drafted new district boundaries for Mnahattan that place three present Senators in the same district and constitute the Harlem area as a separate area according to a map of the suggested districts just made available.

The new district boundaries are set forth in the reapportionment bill, the drafting of which is now almost completed.

As proposed by the commission, New York's County's representation in the Senate will be reduced from nine to six because of population shifts that have occurred since the last redistricting in 1917.

The proposed Harlem district runs roughly from 100th street, between Fifth and Amsterdam avenues, north to 176th street. The majority of the population is Negro thus making it possible to elect a Negro State Senator from the district.

While the City Council must fix the Assembly District lines, it is said that the present proposed Harlem district would include three Assembly Districts. The Congressional District line would probably be the same, thus making it posible for Negroes to elect a Congressman, a State Senator and three Assemblymen.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Leaders Will Contest Issue

Plan Will Change Boro Assembly Boundaries

By TOMMY WATKINS

Uptown political leaders are busy these days wondering just how the proposed legislative reapportionment of voting districts in Brooklyn will affect the current fight to elect a Negro assemblyman in the 17th A. D., borough's most-thickly populated Negro area.

Battlers for this revision claim that "this Legislature will authorize long overdue redistricting—for 1943, if possible; if not then, for 1944."

If the suggested plan goes through successfully, Brooklyn's assemblymen will increase by one to 24, its State senators by one to nine, but it will be disadvantageous for some which are incorporated in new district boundaries. Three of the borough's present Democratic assemblymen would have their present district pulled from under them despite the total increase.

APR 4 1942

Apparently proposals to postpone to 1943 or even to the following year, are picking up impetus. The proponents are under the impression that this will probably be necessary in order to triumph in the Assembly where the fiercest battle looms.

Meanwhile Negro political leaders in uptown Brooklyn are practically at a standstill until the showdown slated for this week, is met.

Congressman From Harlem Seems Okay

New York Post
APR 1 1942

ALBANY.—(By phone to PV)—It looks as tho Harlem will be able to send a Negro to congress after all, with passage of the reapportionment bill by the senate expected when the measure comes before that body Friday for vote. Passage is thot to be nearer assurance following a message Tuesday from Governor Lehman, urging immediate action.

The governor's message said, "It is inconceivable longer to delay reapportionment. Action should be taken at this session of the legislature."

Little opposition to the congressional redistricting measure is anticipated, Assemblyman Hulan E. Jack phoned PV Wednesday. The senatorial measure, however, faces a heavy barrage of antagonism, and question of constitutionality.

NEW YORK
Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Reapportionment Selfishness

New York is deeply disappointed at the prospects of no re-districting of the Senate and Congressional Districts by the Legislature at Albany. The Republicans are in the majority both in the Legislature and Senate of the Assembly. They can pass any one of the measures now before them. They can thus put the matter squarely up to the Governor for his approval or his veto. By so doing, they will not only be doing the just thing, but earn the eternal gratitude of tens of thousands of colored voters in the Empire State. That gratitude would show itself in the ballot boxes next November.

APR 25 1942

Their fear that since Harlem is at present Democratic and that in passing reapportionment so that Harlem could elect its own Senator and Congress they would only be fattening frogs for snakes is shortsighted and selfish. The silent opposition of the Democrats at Albany to reapportionment on the ground that they stand to lose some Democratic Assemblymen, Senators and Congressmen, is equally selfish and shortsighted. The Republican party Upstate, also stands to lose some representation and patronage under reapportionment. In short the losses of both parties under redistricting would be counter-balanced.

APR 25 1942

A grievous political crime against Harlem has been committed by this failure of the State Legislature for the last 25 years. Its masses so far as having representation in the State Senate and in Congress have been just as effectively disfranchised as have their kinsmen in the Solid South.

Should those responsible continue this crime, Harlem will not hold them guiltless. Harlem will not forget!

If the senate passes the congressional bill Friday, it will come before the assembly Monday nite or Tuesday morning, and is expected to sail through without being knifed.

APR 18 1942

In his message, the governor pointed out that present districting is highly unfair, that redistricting is mandatory every ten years but that the last such action occurred in 1917 for the legislative side, and in 1911 for congressional districts.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Harris to Run For U. S. Senate

Asbury Park Hotel Man Opposes Hague Machine

By CARL DUNBAR LAWRENCE

ASBURY PARK.—Wealthy Lorenzo Harris, this city's popular artist and hotel owner, declared this week that he would be a candidate for the U. S. Senate next November, running against both Senator William H. Smathers and "whoever is nominated by the Republicans."

"I am running," he said, "to definitely rebuke Mayor Frank Hague and demonstrate that he can't continue pushing colored citizens around."

JUL 4 1942

On the eve of Harris' announcement, however, the Hague organization tossed a politically powerful "forward pass" to New Jersey's 250,000 colored residents by sponsoring the appointment of Attorney Roger M. Yancey (Newark), who is expected to be named as an assistant to Attorney General Biddle this week-end.

Nevertheless, Harris' mind was not changed. "This campaign won't be confined to colored people as a race," he went on. "We'll get the backing of all the racial minorities and I'm also confident that organized labor will pitch in and help us win this battle here at home while fighting against injustice abroad."

Officially, the talented artist is being backed by the Progressive Colored Democratic Association, an organization headed by Dr. Paul Sinclair, of Jersey City. At a recent meeting of that group, when Harris was urged to make the race, it was decided to appropriate $2,000 "to start the ball rolling."

Another meeting of the Progressive Democratic Association is scheduled for late this month when leaders from the State's 21 counties get together to decide on a board of strategy for the campaign's duration.

In a defiant challenge to those who might oppose the plan of electing a colored man to the U. S. Senate, Harris said: "Let no man oppose us in our effort to make New Jersey safe for democracy. This is a people's fight, and the people must win."

From other sources, it was learned that the "March on Washington Committee" would be invited to sponsor a meeting here for the purpose of letting everyone know that "there will be no sellout." According to tentative plans, it would be held at Convention Hall.

With defense plants presently employing thousands of colored workers, who are in a position to individually help finance the precedent-shattering campaign, it was added that an attempt would be made to register 150,000 colored votes by September 1.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negro Steelworker Runs for Assembly

By Oakley Johnson

Dynamic and genial—these words reveal the dominant qualities of the wiry young Negro mechanic, Thomas Wilson, who is running for Assemblyman this fall on the American Labor Party ticket in the Fourth Assembly District of the Bronx.

"I'm a union man, now and all the time," he said. Mr. Wilson is a molder by trade, a member of Local 1833, Steel Workers of America, CIO, of New Jersey. "And I'm a fighter," he added. "I'm 100 per cent for a second front immediately and for winning the war this year, as far as national policy is concerned, and I'm against discrimination and segregation in all branches of the armed forces and everywhere else."

Expanding his statement of his platform he said that he stands for better housing, lower rents, a low cost housing project for the Fourth Assembly District, better recreation facilities there for both children and adults, and the establishment in the District of a health center with clinics and first aid stations.

"And I say abolish the Rapp-Coudert Committee and see to it that the Board of Education takes back the 125 teachers they fired—though I'm in favor of pensioning off the old and over-age teachers," he added.

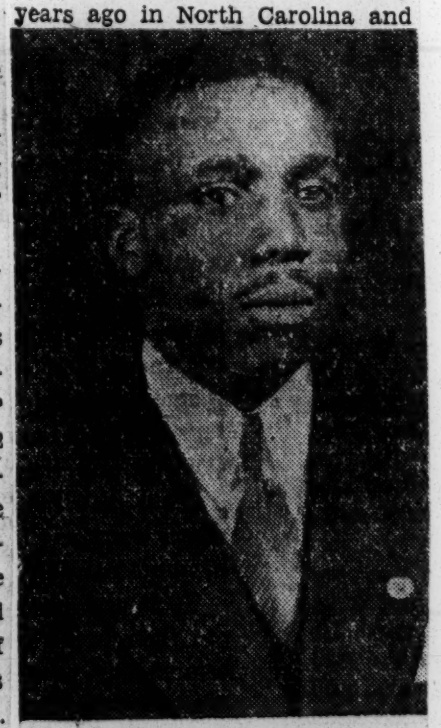
Mr. Wilson feels pretty confident of winning both the nomination and the election. Two years ago when he tried out for Assemblyman, he missed the ALP primary nomination by only 12 votes. This year he is more experienced and better known, he is backed by the United Independent Voters League of the Bronx, and the war has aroused the people to the importance of choosing progressive candidates and fighting for progressive issues. The United Independent Voters will run his name on the Independent ticket, and if he wins the American Labor Party nomination also, his election, he believes, is assured.

Mr. Wilson will appear as one of the speakers at the Negro Labor Victory Conference to be held today at the Fraternal Clubhouse, 110 W. 48th St.

Besides his membership in the CIO Steel Workers Union, Mr. Wilson is a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and is high up in the ranks of the Fraternal Order of Elks. He is well-known in his community and in his trade union as a fighter against discrimination and for the rights of the rank and file.

His wife, Lucy Wilson, as active and alert as her husband, is the air raid warden for Precinct 42, Zone 1, L sector, Post 2, which includes the Wilson home at 1111 Union Avenue, the Bronx.

Thomas Wilson was born thirty years ago in North Carolina and was educated in North Carolina and New Jersey schools. He was active in the bus drivers strike two years ago and in the Whelan drug clerks' strike of 1935. In his union, Local 1833, which has some 600 Negro members out of a total of nearly 3,000, he is known for having won the election of Negroes to important committees, and for securing the appointment of Negro shop stewards in the defense factory where they work. In fact, wherever there's fighting for people's rights to be done, Wilson is there and doing it.



THOMAS WILSON

Seen As Plan To Split Vote, Beat Farley Candidate

"The Informer"
Houston, Tex.

By ERNEST E. JOHNSON

NEW YORK.—(ANP)—A. Philip Randolph, national director of the March on Washington Movement, has been named a candidate for congressman-at--large from this state by the American Labor Party and will run after the party's failure to prevent the nomination of Atty. Gen. John J. Bennett for governor by the Democratic party.

The candidacy was made known Saturday afternoon along with the announcement that New York City's comptroller, Joseph D. McGoldrick, would head up the party's ticket unless Sen. James M. Mead, choice of President Roosevelt and the New Deal element, is given the Democratic nomination by the State convention. Bennett was backed by State Chairman James A. Farley.

MAY UPSET APPLECART

In naming a full slate for the state elections, the ALP is apparently going through with the threat to upset the applecart of the Democrats, bring about the election of Thomas E. Dewey, the Republican standard-bearer, and place the blame on Chairman Farley.

Both the left and right wings of the ALP were opposed to Bennett and wholeheartedly for Sen. Mead.

MAY SPLIT VOTE

The nomination of Randolph is being viewed as a move to draw upon the strong prestige he holds among Negroes throughout the city and state. In the event the ticket is actually entered, the party expects to collect about a million votes, mostly at the expense of the Democrats.

Negroes for the past 12 years, except in New York's mayoralty contests, have been strong Democrats. By naming Randolph, some of this strength can be siphoned onto the ALP on the voting machine

WOULD BE FIRST

Mr. Randolph was not available over the week-end for comment. Should he run it will be the first time that a Negro has ever made the attempt for congress-at-large from this state.

Amsterdam Star-News
New York, N. Y.

New York's Negro Vote And the Governorship

THERE IS MUCH TALK these days about the gubernatorial campaign that will soon get under way in earnest to choose the next governor of New York.

The Democrats, over the objections of President Roosevelt, Senators Wagner and Mead, Governor Lehman and other powerful leaders, nominated State Attorney John J. Bennett after a bitter fight at the Brooklyn convention last week.

Angered over the selection of Bennett, the American Labor Party, which usually strings along with the Democrats, bolted and picked Deen Alfange, an attorney, as its candidate, while the Republicans harmoniously named former District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey as its choice.

Much was said about the inability of Bennett to gain support of the American Labor Party, which is rather generally given credit for the Lehman victory over Dewey in 1938, when Governor Lehman won by a scant 64,000 majority. His opponents say Bennett cannot be elected without it.

Strangely, however, nothing was said about the Negro vote, which played a tremendously important part in the Lehman victory, as an analysis of the poll will show.

The issues in this campaign, it appears, are not going to be fought out strictly along party lines, and an aroused Negro vote throughout the state may cut sharply across and swing the election to the side that presents the best program for the race in its fight for economic, social and political equality. In this case the Negro may furnish the key to the situation and prove the deciding factor in electing the next governor of New York.

Amsterdam Star-News
New York, N. Y.

Dewey or Bennett

OCT 24 1942

THERE IS NO PARALLEL in the public careers, character and capacity to serve the people that can be drawn between Thomas E. Dewey and John J. Bennett, candidates for Governor of New York State.

Stand them side by side, and there is a vast difference even in the political stature of the two men. Compare their records and the racket-busting Republican candidate, Thomas E. Dewey, stands alone as the logical choice.

Dewey has a record of positive militant achievement for all the people. Bennett has a record of complacent service to the leaders of his party. Dewey, both as Chief Assistant United States Attorney and as District Attorney of New York County, has bearded the lions of high crime and mass corruption in their dens and sent them to prison. Dewey has challenged the host of color phobists in New York and by outstanding deeds as well as words, has driven them skulking to their holes.

OCT 24 1942

John J. Bennett, as Attorney General, in the outlawing of race prejudices and crimes against racial rights has a record so blank as to be unknown, unseen. Dewey as District Attorney of New York County for four years, appointed three colored assistants and deputy district attorneys. Bennet as Attorney General of New York State with 62 counties, appointed 3 colored deputy assistants. Dewey on a hundred platforms in New York and throughout the nation has struck out hard, loud and bold for our equal rights as Americans. Bennett, except in the election shadows of the campaign, has been as silent as the Sphinx on our denied rights and opportunities.

Thomas E. Dewey wears no man's collar. As Governor he will remain your practical, progressive champion.

We ask you, Mr. and Mrs. Voter to calmly weigh the issues in the present state campaign and come to your own conclusion. We ask you to answer the question in your own mind as to which you will support at the polls one week from next Tuesday. We ask you to make your decision based on the evidence of what each candidate has done and what each stands for.

OCT 24 1942

These fateful times do not permit you to tamper with the rights and progress of your own people in this great state anymore than they permit you to play with the hell-bent for destruction enemies of your country. Your votes, a potential 343,000, constitute the balance of power and will decide who will be the Governor of New York State for four years after next January 1. Great is your responsibility; greatly must you discharge that responsibility; you cannot fail your own people now any more than you can fail your country now. The issue is much greater than whether you will put a Republican or a Democrat in power at Albany. It is a fundamental issue involving future attitudes toward the Negro in this great state, stronghold and beacon to the nation of liberality to all people. Dewey's attitude toward the Negro is on the record. There it shines. Bennett's record is conspicuous by its absence.

OCT 24 1942

Ask yourself what does the issue mean to you in New York today. What will it mean to your boys and girls, to your people, to our country, to have a fighting, fearless, tried and true friend as Governor of this state for the next four years? The issue confronting you is whether you will vote on a week from next Tuesday to continue to mark time in your progress forward, and for standing alone as forgotten serfs in the open field of ruin in New York State, or: Whether you will vote to march forward as equal citizens in the Empire State of the nation. There can be but one honest answer: Thomas E. Dewey.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

CONGRESSMEN-AT-LARGE

ALTHOUGH Harlem residents will not have an opportunity to elect one of their own number to Congress until 1944, Negro voters in New York State will have a double opportunity this year to vote for a Negro for Congress. The Socialist party has nominated Miss Layle Lane for Congress-woman-at-large and the Communist party has nominated Benjamin J. Davis Jr. as candidate for this post.

OCT 24 1942

Generally speaking both the Socialists and the Communist parties have small followings among Negroes but this year, because of the war, party lines have been let down so that any candidate who is wholeheartedly for prosecuting the war to a successful conclusion will get the support of the rank and file of voters. For that reason we think that Negro voters should support both these candidates.

OCT 24 1942

Miss Lane, a teacher of social science in the Benjamin Franklin High School of this city, is well known to readers of this paper because of her column, "Land of the Noble Free." No one of our acquaintance is more sincerely or unselfishly interested in the welfare of the Negro race, or is better acquainted with the Negro's history and aspirations She is in every way qualified for the position she seeks, and we urge that she be given a vote by all our readers in the Empire State. Remember the Cosgressman-at-large runs on the state-wide ticket and you can vote for these two candidates whether you live in Brooklyn or Buffalo, Albany or Harlem.

Benjamin J. Davis Jr., is also well qualified by training and experience for the post. Son of the one-time Republican National Committeeman from Georgia, he was educated a Amherst and the Harvard Law School and has been active in public affairs for several years.

Politicians estimate that the total Negro vote of the state is in the neighborhood of 200,000. If Negroes give full support to these two candidates, they can garner enough other votes from liberal elements of their party to win. But even should they fail to win the united backing of their own race, a large vote for them would be in the nature of a protest to the major political parties for their failure to name a Negro candidate on their tickets for this post.

OCT 24 1942

We are therefore calling upon Negroes from Niagara Falls to Staten Island to support the only two Negroes running statewide in the forthcoming election by voting for Layle Lane and Benjamin J. Davis Jr., for Congressman-at-large.

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

SOAPBOX -- by Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.

OCT 24 1942



RARELY has Harlem witnessed a duller political campaign than the one through which we are now passing. The lack of outstanding timber for the gubernatorial race has caused a great falling off of voters. Particularly is this true in the 19th and the 21st. It is unfortunate that this has happened, because, regardless of whether the issues or the candidates are of poor quality, the Negro vote must be always kept strong.

There are before the local voters of the Herlem area some candidates that deserve special support. Far outranking all is the candidacy of Ludlow Werner for the position of state senator. Mr. Werner's candidacy deserves the 100% support of all Negro voters regardless of party affiliations. We have never had a Negro state senator. We have the opportunity now to elect one. Werner can be elected by a united Negro vote plus those of far-thinking whites. The time has long passed when the Negro can think in terms of party. It was due to this political emancipation that the people did the impossible and elected me to the City Council. That same pattern must be repeated. Werner is the man. We are the people. Together we can have a Negro state senator, and God knows we need one.

Assemblyman Hulan Jack, running for re-election, also deserves the 100% support of all Negroes and whites in his district. Hulan Jack has been a consistent fighter. He has not played politics. He has fought for the people. He has stuck his chin out countless times when he thought he was right even when he knew it was unpopular. And one must remember that the right cause is more often unpopular than popular. Let's send Hulan Jack back to Albany where his fighting voice can be heard for the Negro people and on behalf of all liberal causes.

OCT 24 1942

In the 21st Assembly District I am supporting Harold Burton for the Assembly. In so supporting Burton, I take nothing from the present assemblyman, William Andrews. I am supporting Hal Burton because he has put the Negro people ahead of party affiliations. That's the kind of man I like and that's the kind of a man that the people must have. I am a registered Democrat. Hal Burton is the Republican leader of the 21st. Yet when I ran for city council last year he told his party boss, Thomas Curran, "I cannot work for the Republican candidate for council. Negro people must have their own councilman. Adam Powell is my choice. I am going to work for him." Sid Davis of the 19th did likewise. Just a few days before election all the Republican literature sent to Harlem was returned and at my expense new literature was printed. Sid Davis' and Hal Burton's captains, without any "pay-off," without any money being passed, worked THAT THE NEGRO PEOPLE MIGHT HAVE THEIR OWN COUNCILMAN. Hal Burton did this at the risk of losing his job, for he was an appointee of the Republican party. There were other men who although *elected* by the people, not only refused to break party affiliations but who fought in every dirty, double-crossing way to see that I was defeated.

OCT 24 1942

BUT YOU CAN'T DEFEAT THE PEOPLE. LET'S REMEMBER THIS WHEN WE GO TO THE POLLS THIS YEAR: "NOT PARTY BUT THE PEOPLE MUST WIN."

First Negro Woman in Assembly Race Makes Her Opening Speech Tonight

P.M. DAILY — N.Y.C.
OCT 23 1942

Mrs. Maida Springer will deliver her first caimpaign speech tonight at a reception given in her honor by labor groups and the Women's Division of the American Labor Party, at the YMCA, 144 W. 138th St. She is running for Assembly on the ALP ticket in the 21st District, Harlem, the first Negro woman to be so honored.



Maida Springer

Local 22, of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, in which she has been an active member for the last 10 years, considers her an authority on Negro problems. Besides that, she's educational director of the Local, teaches first aid, is active on seven executive committees in union circles, and is chairman of the ILGWU Women's Health Brigade. She gets $35 a week in a dress factory, where she started a decade ago at $11 weekly.

Campaigning is just an added activity for her; she is dropping none of her other work.

"I think it's high time Harlem had a working woman who is an active trade unionist as Assemblyman," she said in explaining her candidacy. "Trade unionism will help solve the Negroes' job problem."

Her election will be urged at the reception by Frank Crosswaith, member of the Mayor's Housing Commission; Dr. George Counts, of Teachers College; Charles Zimmerman, general manager of Local 22; Noel Walters, of the Laundry Workers Union; Odell Clark, chairman of the Harlem Central Club; Mrs. A. Philip Randolph and Mrs. Pearl Willen.

OCT 23 1942

PARTY LABELS AND WAR UNITY

AGE N.Y.C.

SEVERAL READERS have expressed surprise that The Age has abandoned a long established tradition to support several candidates of radical pursuasion, notably Ben Davis Jr., an avowed member of the Communist Party, who is running for Congressman-at-large.

OCT 31 1942

This support of Mr. Davis' candidacy were based on two propositions.

1. He is a member of the same racial group with which we are affiliated and in our opinion his radicalism is based more on a sense of grievance against the ills the Negro people suffer in this country because of their race and color than on any allegiance to a foreign power.

2. That the only way in which we can get national unity is for all of us to forget pre-war prejudices and animosities and stand wholeheartedly behind any leadership that is for winning the war. We must sink personal and party differences during the war emergency for a larger cause—that of winning the war.

OCT 31 1942

We submit that if the Allied Powers can consider the Russian commander, General Timoshenko, for supreme commander of their armed forces in order to achieve that necessary leadership needed to win the war, minority groups in this country should be willing to consider less the issues on which they differ and more on those in which they have in common.

OCT 31 1942

Negroes of every hue would do well to forget their differences and support those able and willing to fight for winning the war while at the same time they are demanding full participation and equal opportunity for their particular racial group. Mr. Davis meets these qualifications and is entitled to the support of all Negroes in the Empire State in his campaign for Congressman-at-large.

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Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y

First Harlem Senator Due in Fall Election

MAR 21 1942

ALBANY, N. Y., March 17.—The Legislative Reapportionment Commission has drafted new district boundaries for Manhattan that place three present Senate districts in one and constitute the Harlem area as a separate district. The measure is scheduled for introduction next Monday night. The proposed Harlem district embraces the area north of Central Park between Fifth and Amsterdam Avenues. The congressional district lines may be so gerrymandered that Harlem will not be able to elect a congressman of its own. In any event, if the Senate lines stand, Harlem is due to elect its first State senator this Fall.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Newspaperman Nominated For State Senator Post In New York

"Age" Managing Editor Designated By Republicans

JUN 9 1942

NEW YORK—(ANP)—Announcement was made Friday of the nomination of Ludlow W. Werner, managing editor of the New York Age, as the Republican candidate for state senator, 19th district. The nomination, made by Chester Hethercott, Republican leader of the 13th Assembly district, and seconded by Sidney Davis, leader of the 19th A. D., was concurred in by former Sen. William Duggan, leader of the 20th A. D., on June 1.

A resident of the 13th district, Mr. Werner is the eldest grandson of Fred R. Moore, editor of the New York Age and former alderman. He has been active in Republican circles for 14 years as a district captain and has managed many successful campaigns, most notable of which was the Harlem campaign of Thomas E. Dewey for district attorney four years ago. He has held many offices in his club in the 13th A. D., being a vice president of the club, member of the executive committee, chairman of the membership committee and member of the campaign committee. He has also represented his club at many state and local conventions.

Besides his newspaper duties, Mr. Werner is active in many organizations. He is president of the Parent-Teachers Association of Public school 89, member and former president of the boys' advisory committee of the Harlem Children's center, members of the Harlem city-wide committee of the Children's Aid Society, member of the board of managers of the Harlem Center for Active Service Men, member of the advisory board of the New York Vocational High School for Boys, member of the board of directors of the National Association of Negroes in Industry, and member of the Omega society, the Kingdom of God.

MAN REFUSES GOD

The speaker pictured man's re-

Psi Phi fraternity.

A native of Brooklyn, Mr. Werner was graduated from the public and high schools of that borough and attended New York University and the College of the City of New York. He is 35 years old and lives with his son, Ludlow Jr., at 230 West 13th Street.

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

Liberal Whites Unite To Elect Negro On Board

CIO Delegates Plan Forward Step At Annual Convention Meeting in Chicago This Week

By George F. McCray

CHICAGO, Aug. 6 (ANP)—Negro and progressive white delegates to the annual convention of the CIO United Auto Workers' Union, opening in Chicago Monday are striving to unite their forces and line up enough votes to elect a Negro to the international executive board of the union. Since executive board members are elected from the region in which they will have general supervision of the union's affairs for the ensuing year, the unity forces are focusing their activities among the delegates from Michigan.

Shelton Tappes, whom 30,000 workers at the Ford River Rouge plant in Detroit pay $4,000 per year to be their elected recording secretary, has withdrawn from the race leaving the field to Walter Hardin and Oscar Noble. Hardin as the chairman of the [illegible] interracial committee works very closely with President R. J. Thomas and has had unusual experience settling interracial conflicts in unions. Oscar Noble, though only 28 years old, is a cornerstone in the powerful Pontiac local of the union. For years he has been plant committeeman and played a dominant role in holding 10,000 General Motors workers in the CIO after the Homer Martin split.

Victory For Labor-War Unity

Observers point out that the election of a Negro to the international executive board from the Michigan area would be a major victory for national unity and the employment of Negro workers in defense industries. Such a move taken in addition to a constitutional provision which will be adopted to penalize workers for refusing to work beside Negroes, will, it is thought, put an end to much of the agitation against the promotion of Negro defense workers. Other observers claim these two moves will do much to convince Negroes that only the unions are able to combat employmnet discrimination on a broad general basis

Will Vote Be Split?

According to [illegible] reports, however, if two Negro candidates enter the field both will be defeated. Noble or Hardin running alone would at best have little better than an even chance. Before the ballots are cast another withdrawal is being eagerly awaited by the unity leaders.

OTHER CANDIDATES

In the Congressional campaign, we urge that full support be given the two Negro candidates for Congressman at-large, Layle Lane and Benjamin J. Davis, Jr.

For State Senate, we wish to re-emphasize what we have been saying for several weeks, that Negroes in Harlem have the best opportunity to gain representation in the upper house of the legislature that they have had for years in supporting the candidacy of Ludlow W. Werner, Republican candidate in the 19th S. D. Mr. Werner's election will be a big advance politically for the Negroes of New York. In the 17th District, we urge our readers to support State Senator Frederic Coudert Jr., for re-election. Mr. Coudert is an able and experienced legislator and is a member of some of the most important committees in the Senate He can give invaluable support to Mr. Dewey in his program for re-vamping the state government.

The election of Harold C. Burton, Republican from the 21st A. D., William H. Milholland from the 13th Assembly District, Joseph A. Bailey, Republican from the 19th A. D., Lassen A. Walsh from the 17th A. D., would also be advantageous to both the new Governor and the people of Harlem. Control of both houses of the legislature is important for a successful Republican administration and these candidates are in full accord with the Dewey program and are also alive to the problems affecting the Negro in their districts and throughout the state.

In the Congressional race, we think that a Congressman's importance increaess with his tenure in office. In other words ,we think that the most influential Congressman are those who have served two or more terms. Despite the fact that he has served several terms in Washington, Congressman Gavagan has been a weak and ineffectual representative and his past record shows that his anti-lynching bill has been used merely as a political football to seek the vote of Negroes. It is time for a change and we therefore urge the election of Herbert A. Malkin, Republican, as Congressman of the 21st District.

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

Werner Accuses Labor Party Of Trying To Split Negro Vote

Opening guns in what promises to be a bitterly fought campaign for the state senatorship in the 19th state senatorial district crackled over the weekend as Republican candidate Ludlow W. Werner assailed the left wing American Labor Party county organization for "working in the interest of the re-election of State Senator Charles Perry, present incumbent."

Werner, in a press release, said: "The communists are using the old tactics of keeping Negroes divided by forcing Atty. Hope R. Stevens to be their candidate so as to prevent Negroes from presenting a united front in this campaign to unseat Perry."

Atty. Stevens, contacted by PV, branded the accusation as "absolutely false."

Werner, in his statement, declared:

● that right wing ALP candidate Ashley L. Totten declined to oppose him, pledged his support to the GOP nominee,

● that the left wing ALP refused to endorse him because such endorsement might help Republican gubernatorial aspirant Thomas E. Dewey,

● that, at the same time, the left wing ALP was endorsing white Republicans downtown for the state senate.

"I charge the ALP with deliberately forcing the candidacy of Hope Stevens with the idea of breaking any unified Negro support of me. The ALP left wingers, while professing that they are friends of the Negro, are now shown in their true light. They do not want to see the Negro advance politically further in New York and their running of a Negro candidate in opposition to me is proof of that."

"I want to pay due credit to Hope Stevens, who was willing to decline in my favor, so as to present a united front against Perry, but the central committee of the left wing ALP group refused to let Stevens drop out of the race and over his objections insisted that he be a candidate," Werner concluded.

Stevens, describing Werner's statement as "completely wrong," ridiculed the idea of his being forced to run. He admitted being approached by Republican Leader Harold Burton of the 21st assembly district, east, with the suggestion that he withdraw in favor of Werner and a united Negro front.

On failure to reach agreement, Stevens said, he and Werner met and discussed the situation Saturday. After talking the matter over with Werner and further consultation with the ALP county leaders, Stevens said, he told the GOP candidate that his withdrawal under the circumstances was impossible.

Political Roundup:

The Board of Election has thrown out petitions filed for the state senatorial candidacy in the 19th senatorial district in behalf of former assemblyman James E. Stephens.

Rev. O. Clay Maxwell jr., prominently mentioned as a seeker of the 19th district state senatorial nomination, filed for the assembly instead and will oppose Assemblyman Daniel Burrows, incumbent from the 19th assembly district, instead, for the democratic nomination.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

A STATE SENATOR FOR HARLEM

WITH THE PRIMARIES coming early this year, on August 11, interest is waxing strong in the forthcoming fall elections. New York will elect a Governor and members of Congress, as well as members of the Assembly, and State Senate.

Principal interest in Harlem is in the campaign for State Senator. The 19th Senatorial District, which is now 65 percent colored, is represented by a white man, Charles Perry, who is not known to one in every hundred persons in his district. The son of the former Tammany District leader of the 19th Assembly District, he has a colorless record and has never shown himself interested in the welfare of his constituents, despite four years in office.

For a decade or more, Harlem leaders of both major parties have been agreed on the principle that in those districts where we are numerically a majority, we should have our own representatives in the city and state government, and are striving to that end.

Tammany Hall, however, has been reluctant to replace Senator Perry, and for that reason voters in Harlem are determined to support a Negro candidate for this office, regardless of party affiliations.

Ludlow W. Werner, managing editor of The New York Age, has been designated by the Republican party as its candidate for State Senator in this district. He is unopposed in the primaries and has an excellent chance of winning in the general election. A strenuous campaign will be waged in his behalf. We are calling on all who believe in the principle of majority rule to get behind the campaign of Ludlow W. Werner and help send him to the State Senate. He has the necessary qualifications for the office, including the fact that he is a member of the race which is a majority group in the district.

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

Stevens' Withdrawal Gives Harlem 'Unity' Candidate

Special!

As reported exclusively in PV last week, Hope Stevens, ALP candidate, withdrew from the race for senator from the 21st district, after a conference with PV's editor and local leaders, and Ludlow Werner, Republican, was declared "unity candidate." Stevens' withdrawal marks the first time that a duly designated and nominated Negro candidate has placed racial welfare above personal ambition in an effort to give Harlem the representation it deserves. Before Stevens' withdrawal the two candidates held a series of conferences and learned that they were in agreement on personal principles and platform.

As a result, the platform espoused by Werner, and endorsed by Stephens, emphasizes *Win The War, Win Democracy For The Negro* program. It includes the following ten points:

● complete and overwhelming defeat of Perry in the November election,

● support of the President in the prosecution of the war to final victory,

● immediate and full incorporation of the Negro people in all phases of the Nation's war effort,

● removal of all bars to the employment of Negroes in all branches of war industry,

● full equality of opportunity for service by Negroes in all the armed services—army, navy, marine corps, coast guard and air force—and the end of segregation and discrimination therein,

● immediate ending of segregation and discrimination in the NY State Guard and the admission of recruits in all units thereof without regard to race or color.

● application of the terms of the Atlantic Charter to India now, as a guarantee to all peoples that this war is a war of freedom and liberation,

● vigorous prosecution of all who stir up hatred against the Negro people, creating disunity and impeding the war effort,

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Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

New York
New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Werner, Senatorial Nominee, Hits Tammany Discrimination

SEP 19 1942 SEP 19 1942

Special

Unlimbering the heavy ammunition in his campaign to unseat Charles Perry, white Democratic incumbent, in the contest for state senator in the 19th senatorial district, Ludlow W. Werner, GOP designee, this week charged that the "white supremacy" exponents of the southern states have their counterpart in the Tammany Hall organization right here in NYC. The *New York Age* managing editor, whose GOP candidacy has been endorsed by both American Labor Party, coupled the race-baiting tactics called into play by the political sponsors of Governor Eugene Talmadge of Georgia, in the latter's recent unsuccessful primary fight against Ellis Arnall, with the refusal of white Tammany Hall to designate a Negro candidate in Harlem's 19th district, in spite of the fact that this district's constituency is 60 percent Negro.

"The average voter in the 19th is awakening to the fact that Tammany Hall's failure to recognize the just claim of Negroes according to their voting strength is just as criminal above as below the Mason-Dixon line," Werner declared in a formal statement issued from his headquarters.

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Negro district leaders of the Tammany organization were exempted from the Werner charge of "white supremacy," the Republican candidate declaring that they unanimously urged for the designation of a Negro and warned Tammany chieftains that the 19th district will not return a white candidate to office again, especially one who has shown no interest in the welfare of Negroes.

Werner placed in evidence photostatic copies of newspaper advertisements, which bore blurred pictures of members of President Roosevelt's Fair Employment Practices Committee, referred to Earl Dickerson and Milton P. Webster, Negro FEPC members, as "Chocolate Drop" and "Tar Baby."

"The state of Georgia repudiated ~~pointed out. "It is not one whit~~ this type of political theory in its elections last week," Werner better practised in Tammany Hall than it is espoused deep in the

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Werner added:

"The majority of the white voters in the 19th who recognize the justice of Negroes' claims and have indicated that they will support our fight for democracy and political justice."

As a parting shot, he reminded voters of the 19th that Tammany's leader, Michael Kennedy, is one of NY's representatives who has refused to sign petitions seeking to release the anti-poll tax legislation from committees so that it can be brought to the floor of the House.

Tammany Blunders Again, Fires 4 Veteran Captains In 13th A. D.; Panicky Over Werner's Campaign

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Tammany Hall's master-mind, Clarence Neal, Democratic leader of the 20th Assembly District, who showed his contempt for Negroes by forcing on them the candidacy of the incompetent State Senator Charles Perry, thereby arousing widespread resentment among loyal Negro Democratic party workers, has blundered again!

Panicky because of the mounting indorsements and growing sentiment for the election of Ludlow W. Werner, Republican candidate, as the first Negro State Senator, Tammany committed one of its worst blunders at the height of registration week by removing four veteran Democratic captains in the 13th Assembly District, Mr. Werner's home district. Two of the captains were Negroes, two whites.

The ouster of the four captains was all the more astonishing when it was disclosed that three of them who were delegates, were Bennett-for-Governor men even before the convention in which Tammany's leader, Michael J. Kennedy, held out for the nomination of Meade for Governor and lost prestige by backing a losing candidate.

It was known that these captains just ousted were "Bennett men" and no amount of talk by Tammany moguls could get them to change their votes on the roll call. The removals, thus, could be considered reprisals for having bucked Tammany Hall by voting for Bennett.

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Bolin Removed

One of the ousted captains was Theodore Bolin, who recently was removed from membership of the triumvirate which was running affairs of the district in the absence of the leader, William J. Sheldrick, now in the Army.

Captain Bolin was the 20th Election District, 13th A. D. for 16 years. Bolin's removal was followed in quick succession by the resignation of his mother, Mrs. Mary S. Bolin, who worked in the district as a co-captain or inspector for the last twenty-four years.

Bolin's ouster, because of his stand for Negro representation and for being a Bennett man, was believed to have been dictated by Perry, who was called in the Citizens Union statement on the qualifications of all legislative candidates: "A relatively inactive organization man of the old school. He missed many important roll calls." The report did not list Perry as qualified.

At the same time, the Citizens Union called Mr. Werner qualified and preferred and said of him: "An intelligent and conscientious young Negro editor, helpfully active in the life of the community. He is supported by Harlem's most trusted and public-spirited leaders and clearly offers this district a greatly improved type of representation."

One of the ousted white captains was known to have no "love" for Perry and often referred to him in names which cannot be printed in a newspaper. His dislike for Perry was said to have stemmed from an argument in which Perry is said to have attacked and assaulted him.

Werner's Comment

Commenting on Tammany's latest move in the 19th Senatorial District, (the area roughly between 116th and 136th streets from the Hudson to the Harlem River) Ludlow W. Wernor, Republican candidate who is also being backed by Hope Stevens, ALP candidate, said:

"Every time I make a charge against Tammany Hall's lily-white leaders, they come right back and prove I'm right. The ouster of the four captains in the 13th A. D. merely confirm my charge that Tammany is panicky. My incompetent opponent does not even dare to come to Harlem to address a meeting, not only because he knows he is disliked by the people of the district, but also because he is not able to talk intelligently on any issue whether it concerns Negro or white voters or both."

Arnold C. deMille, Werner's campaign manager, added:

"If Tammany Hall's Edgar Bergen (Clarence Neal) thinks that voters this year will send his Charlie McCarthy (Charles Perry) back to Albany for another two years to mis-represent Harlem, he underrates our intelligence. Strings can be pulled only so long. The election of Werner, the people's choice for real representation, will prove that Clarence Neal's stupid maneuvering in the Senatorial fight was the noose that hanged his incompetent Democratic candidate.

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

SOAPBOX -- by Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.

OCT 31 1942



AS we enter the final week of this political campaign one candidate above all MUST WIN. Regardless for whom you cast your vote for Governor, make sure you vote for Lt. Gov. Charles Poletti. Whether you vote for Alfange, Amter, Bennett, or Dewey, by all means vote for POLETTI.

The people of New York are fortunate to have a man of the caliber of Charles Poletti interested in the position of Lieutenant-Governor. Poletti is of just as good gubernatorial timber as any of the four candidates for that office now running. He has taken the position of Lt. Governor and raised it from the dead. He has brought life and meaning to what was formerly a political hack's sinecure. Charles Poletti has been a consistent fighter for labor. He has been an advocate of full and equal opportunities for minorities. Anybody who defends the working people and the Negro people must get the vote of all people, regardless of party affiliations.

Henry Epstein is another aspirant whose qualifications lift him above the usual muck and mire. He comes before the electorate on November 3rd with a rich background of education and experience. He was one of the great fighters in the battle which ended in the elimination of the poll-tax in the State of Florida.

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James O'Leary is standing for re-election to the position of Comptroller. O'Leary comes from the American Labor party. He has done a good job while in Albany and he too deserves our vote.

"The daily double" for this year's political campaign is Layle Layne and Ben Davis, Jr. Layle Lane is running on the Socialist ticket and Ben Davis, jr., on the Communist ticket for the position of Congressman-at-large for the state of New York. If they get my vote, they should get yours, not only because they are Negroes, and not only because they are qualified but because they represent the breaking away from the political jim-crow pattern.

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For too long, Negroes have been chosen to run for only those offices that represent Negroes only. On the other hand, hundreds of white candidates come before us each year for county-wide, city-wide and nation-wide positions. It is time that the Negro participated in the political scene as members of this democracy not just as Negroes. This is one reason I have always given credit to the Communist party because they have had the courage to run Negro people in national, state and county elections.

Ben Davis Jr. deserves the vote of every Negro. He comes from a great Georgia family. His education lifts him head and shoulders above the usual run of the mill Congressmen. The Negro vote is so important that major political parties could easily run a Negro for the position of Congressman-at-large instead of the nonentities that are now running. My vote goes to Ben Davis, jr. (See full voters guide on Page 4.)

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

Werner Restates Liberal Views As Senate Campaign Nears End

OCT 31 1942

As the campaign of Ludlow W. Werner to become New York State's first Negro senator entered its final phase, hundreds of voters attended an informal tea Sunday afternoon at the headquarters of the Independent Citizens Committee for the Election of Werner, 2293 Seventh ave.

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At that time Werner had the opportunity of personally greeting those working for his election and to thank them for their efforts. In his appeal to the voters of the 19th senatorial district (the area from 116 st to 136 st and from the Harlem to Hudson Rivers), Werner pledged that if elected, he would become the watchdog and protector for the rights of his constituents, Negro and white.

"Harlem, particularly the 19th District, has long needed proper representation in the State Senate, and I solemnly pledge to work for and in the best interests of the residents not only of my district but also the state at large," Werner said.

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"I will remember that I have a job to do and will specifically work on this platform:

- "win the war with equal rights for all nations and peoples;
- "reduction of high rents and government regulation of them for the duration;
- "enaction of and stringent enforcement of rigid laws against discrimination in employment on account of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin;
- "full protection of the rights of state, county, and municipal workers;

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- "legislation to drive all food racketeers from the streets of NY;
- "a living wage for all workers with full protection of the rights of organized labor."

What Negro Writer Says Of Ben Davis

OCT 31 1942

Ben Davis is a swell guy and I hope he goes to Washington as a Congressman. This is what a friend of Peter Dana, Negro writer for the **New York Age**, told him about which he reports in the current issue:

Davis knows the answers for "a lot of things ailing us," said Dana's friends. Dana thinks so too.

The full story appears below:

The campaign of young Ben Davis, son of the fighting one-time editor and publisher of the old Atlanta Independent and former Republican National Committeeman, for representative at large from New York, is not without enthusiastic support. This seems to be especially true among working elements in metropolitan New York, where Ben the younger has become a popular and forceful figure since returning here after his courageous defense of Angelo Herndon in the Georgia sedition case.

"I see you know Ben Davis," said a couple of acquaintances of mine as I finished some twenty-odd minutes talk with Ben in the lobby of the Hotel Theresa the other day.

"He's a swell guy," one offered, "and I hope he goes to Washington as a Congressman. We need a man who knows what it's all about, and one who will get in there and fight."

OCT 31 1942

The other suggested, "It'll be pretty awkward trying to keep Ben out of Congress just because he's a Communist now."

I asked my friends if they had ever met Ben. One had; both had heard him speak and agreed the boy had the answer for "a lot of things ailing us," in the language of one.

This exchange of opinions suggested a canvas was in order among others to ascertain a more or less general altitude toward Davis' campaign. During the better part of three days, I broached the subject wherever I went. In no case did I find that the voter was not pulling for Davis. In most cases he was not only a solid man of color but a man in whom the poor, the oppressed, the struggling, the workingman, could place his confidence and trust him to say and do the forceful democratic thing at Washington.

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To questions about his Communism, not a one but didn't dismiss the suggeston with impatience, some going so far as to declare this is a fine time for Americans to be "beefing" about Communism—darkly hinting, as one man did, that **"a hellavu lot of folks want more than the distinction of not being red in the people who represent them in Washington these days."**

One man said, "Ben won me when he was down at Washington that time at the hearing on the anti-lynching bill. He told 'em off for my money and he gave them poll-taxing senators hell, oh, but good."

An oldtimer who had known Ben's dad when he was "raisin' hell with the Atlanta Independent and darin' the Kluxers to lay a band on him right there in Georgia, too," said "the boy is just naturally a fighter; his old man before him was; and, damn it, I'm for him all the way.

"Yes, sir, I like the way he out-[illegible]d outfought them 'crack-[illegible]e in Atlanta when they were trying to send that Hern-[illegible]on boy to the chain-gang. He's a smart boy, too; they say he studied law at Harvard—just like the Presi-dent."

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Charlotte, N. C. Observer
April 16, 1942

Negro Enters Race For N. C. Assembly

Woods Morgan Announces Candidacy With 12-Point Program Including Representation Of Members Of His Race On Civil Service Commissions.

Outlining a 12-point platform designed to do away with race discrimination in North Carolina, Woods Morgan, Negro director of Woods Morgan Barber college at First and McDowell streets, last night announced his candidacy for the State Legislature, subject to rules of the Democratic primary.

Summarized, his qualifications were listed as graduate of the Bishopville, S. C., public schools and of Benedict college, Columbia, S. C.; resident of Charlotte since 1927; head of the barber college bearing his name for the last 13 years.

His objectives:

1.—Reduction and prevention of crime among Negroes in Charlotte and Mecklenburg county; employment of Negro county police and of 12 additional Negroes to the city force.

2.—Appointment of Negro representatives to both city and county civil service commissions.

3.—Additional jury representation for Negroes in this area.

4.—Increase of old-age pension payments to $30 a month for aged Negroes.

5.—More employment for Negroes in city and county governmental personnel.

6.—Repeal of Charlotte's present milk ordinance (which bans sale of country buttermilk after 11 more months).

7.—Repeal of the taxicab ordinance and return to lowered liability rates that will justify continuation of the former 10-cent fare.

8.—Direct representation for Negroes in the State government in order to co-ordinate more effective efforts to win the war.

9.—"A democracy that will give all American citizens an equal chance to serve and earn according to their ability, and an equalization in salary for all employes paid out of public funds of the city, county, and State governments, regardless of race or color."

10.—Better efficiency and reduced operating costs in city, county, and State governments.

11.—"I thank God for America and pledge to give every drop of blood in my veins, if necessary, to get the Japanese out of the Pacific and to crush Hitlerism in Europe."

12.—Win the war. "America must not lose."

Columbia, S. C. State
April 17, 1942

Charlotte Negro Is Candidate for NC Legislature

Charlotte, N. C., April 16—(AP)—Woods Morgan, Negro director of a barber college here bearing his name, announced today his candidacy for the legislature in the forthcoming Democratic primary on a platform designed to give Negroes greater representation in public affairs.

Morgan, a graduate of Benedict college, Columbia, S. C., has been head of the barber college for the last 13 years.

Spartanburg, S. C. Journal
April 16, 1942

N. C. Negro Enters Democratic Primary For Legislative Post

CHARLOTTE, N. C., April 16 (AP).—Woods Morgan, negro director of a barber college here bearing his name, announced today his candidacy for the legislature in the forthcoming Democratic primary on a platform designed to give negroes greater representation in public affairs.

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Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
April 24, 1942

Experimenting in Tarheelia

In Mecklenburg county, North Carolina, where an early declaration of independence is a myth beloved and asserted by some high authorities as a fact of history, a negro man has announced his candidacy for the state legislature, "subject to the rules of the Democratic primary".

This is manifestly in harmony with the philosophy of the New Deal.

When county candidates were nominated by Democratic conventions, a negro Democrat was sent to the legislature from Charleston county, another represented Orangeburg county and another, Colleton county. There may have been one or two negro Democrats from other counties in the legislature in the years between 1876 and 1890. Negro Democrats were elected to minor offices in Darlington and Barnwell in those days.

In South Carolina negroes are excluded from the primaries for the reason that many of them are simple people who would be easily controlled by corrupt politicians. While there are white people subject to similar influences, or control, the number of negroes, were they voting in primaries, would be much larger.

The white Democrats are unwilling to require qualifications of intelligence, character or property for voting in primaries, and that creates a condition far from desirable. In total disregard of consistency, they practice exclusion of the negroes because they well known that a condition none too good would be made unspeakably bad were the Democratic primaries opened to them.

The negro Democrats could, if they wished, hold Democratic primaries of their own and nominate candidates for the general assembly. No one is hindering them.

52a-1942
Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Dunjee Smeared At Eleventh Hour

NOV 7 - 1942

Cards Tell Voters Dispatch Editor Collected For Votes

A last-minute stab at Negro solidarity, in support of the Democratic ticket was made this week when the Republican state committee shipped out all over the state for distribution Monday afternoon and Tuesday small tickets carrying this statement:

COLORED PEOPLE
NOTICE
DOES DUNJEE
COLLECT FOR YOUR
VOTE
? ? ? ? ? ?

Mr. Dunjee is editor of The Black Dispatch.

NOV 7 - 1942

Several of the cards were brought to the Black Dispatch office Saturday by angry citizens, but the first notice that the distribution was statewide came when Jimmy Taylor, Langston, called Editor Dunjee Monday afternoon stating that Guthrie and Langston were blanketed with the cards.

NOV 7 - 1942

Taylor asked Dunjee to come to Langston Monday night for an address, but Dunjee declined because of a previous engagement. "We want to hit this hard here" said Taylor over long distance.

Prof. W. H. McCane, principal of Choctaw school came into the Black Dispatch with a hand full of the cards Monday stating one of his pupils reported a man was out in front of Choctaw school passing them out.

"I don't know just how much damage the boys will do among the unwitting" said Dunjee when shown some of the cards, "but it is certainly a compliment to the influence the Republicans admit the Black Dispatch has over Oklahoma."

"I have not been in Democratic State headquarters since the primary, and just found out today where it is located. Is is certainly an important and powerful black man who can sit in his office and make the Democrats come down and pay off."

NOV 7 1942

"You tell the boys when they get the figures all straight and know the exact amount I received they can come down and I'll print their story in the Black Dispatch without charge, and we agree here and now that they will not be subject to any libel suits," concluded the editor.

OKLAHOMA
Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla.

The Negroes Voted For Kerr

With Robert S. Kerr winning the election by a majority of 16,111 votes, it is reasonable to assume that a change of ,500 would have elected William J. Otjen the first Republican governor of this state.

It is easy to see that the Democratic governor-elect won this exciting race, that almost established a political precedent because he had the moral courage to make an honest and sincere bid for the Negro vote. In fact we make this direct statement: Robert S. Kerr is the next governor of Oklahoma by grace of the vote he received from grateful Negroes.

NOV. 14, 1942

One does not have to chase around much to find out whether Negroes voted for Kerr. In Tulsa alone, in the precincts 37, 36, 28, 27, 22, 21, 12, 11, 8, and 9, Mr. Kerr received 810 votes. When one takes into account the South End where many Negroes work, it can be easily seen that Tulsa Negroes alone gave the Democratic candidate easily 1,000 votes. In the one Negro precinct at Sand Springs the Negroes gave Kerr 147 votes, and while Sand Springs went for Otjen, the one Negro precinct alone almost swept the little town into a majority for Kerr.

In Oklahoma City the eight all-Negro precincts cast 563 votes for Kerr and 272 for Otjen, which shows a two to one drift. But it should be kept in mind that Negroes live all over Oklahoma City and unlike Tulsa, where segregation is definitely established for blacks, Negroes cast an additional 500 votes in other sections fo the city.

If we can locate 2,000 votes in Oklahoma City and Tulsa cast for Robert S. Kerr, it should be easy to follow through and consider what the Negro vote for Kerr was in Muskogee, Wewoka, Seminole, Okmulgee, McAlester, Ardmore, Enid, Bristow, Bartlesville, Pawhuska, Holdenville, Sapulpa, Chickasha, El Reno, Frederick, Boley, Guthrie, Langston, Taft, and two-score other Negro centers.

It should be kept in mind that in the Red River counties ninety per cent of the Negroes registered vote Democratic. That means a heavy vote all through the old Choctaw and Chickasaw Indian Nation. Can you not see that Robert S. Kerr easily received from among the 70,000 registered Negro votes of the state at least 30,000 votes. Eight thousand five hundred of them turned the other way would have spelled defeat.

52a-1942
Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

PENNSYLVANIA

Unseat Politicos In N. Philadelphia Democratic Rift

AUG 29 1942

According to authoritative reports, State Representative Ralph T. Jefferson and Mrs. Mayme Moorman, both of whom have long been regarded as perennial powers in 47th Ward politics, have been unseated in the 47th Ward Democratic Executive Committee along with nine other committeemen.

The action against Representative Jefferson, State Legislator from the 21st District; Mrs. Moorman and the others was taken last Friday at a meeting of the 47th Ward Organization Committee, held at the headquarters, 2002 Ridge avenue.

Listed as the nine others denied seats were: J. Thompson Pettigrew, unsuccessful candidate for the legislative nomination in the primary; George T. Jackson, attorney; Earl Bailey, Brigers Thompson, Claude Crumel, Leah Gross, Emma A. Pinckney, Walter Rasin and Mary Sneed.

Fifty-two Present

Earl Lane, of 1943 N. 16th street, committeeman from the 2nd Division, 47th Ward, and chairman of the Organization Committee, presented the resolution asking that seats be denied the 11 committeemen. Present at the meeting were 52 committeemen.

Also present were Frederick H. Bickert, white Democratic leader of the Ward, and John H. Brigerman, chairman of the Executive Committee and Democratic nominee from the 21st Legislative District.

The Organization Committee's resolution stated:

"We, the members of the 47th Ward Organization Committee, in order to eradicate the confusion, controversy and contention between and among members of the committee, met at our headquarters, 2002 Ridge avenue, [illegible], in order to interview and question certain members, hereinafter called the defendants, and to report back to the Ward Executive Committee our recommendation as derived therefrom:

List "Defendants"

"Mayme D. Moorman, Earl Bailey, Brigers Thompson, Claude Crumel, J. Thompson Pettigrew, Ralph T. Jefferson, Leah Gross, George T. Jackson, Emma A. Pinckney, Walter Rasin and Mary Sneed.

"We want it thoroughly understood that the defendants were properly and duly notified both as to the date and the [illegible] of said meeting, but to our regret did not appear before the Organization Committee as requested by its chairman.

"We, therefore, recommend that the defendants be held guilty by default and that their seats be denied in the 47th Ward Democratic Executive Committee."

Lane said afterwards that the action against Representative Jefferson, Mrs. Moorman and the others was not taken because of animosity on the part of any member of the Executive Committee.

AUG 29 1942

"Need Harmony"

"What we need is harmony," Lane declared, "and any person not present showed clearly that he or she was not in harmony with the 47th Ward Executive Committee.

The committeemen not affected by the Organization Committee's action then went on record as backing Brigerman to the limit in the General election.

"Brigerman is a man who will serve the people in the Legislature," Lane said.

The group also praised the leadership of Bickert, declaring that he was unbiased in his dealings with the Negro constituency in all matters pertaining to patronage and representation.

——A Colored [illegible]

AUG 29 1942

AUG 29 1942

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

OCT 17 1942

Lt. Greene Must Be Elected To Congress, White, Negro Leaders Advise Race Voters

OCT 17 1942

A cross-section of Negro voters from all sections of North Philadelphia last Sunday heard three leaders in their respective fields—two Negroes and one white man, the latter a Jewish Rabbi—advocate the election of Lieutenant Harry J. Greene, U. S. Army, to Congress from the 4th Congressional District.

The speagers were Rabbi Aaron Decter, Raymond Pace Alexander, attorney, and Mrs. Goldie Ervin Watson, school teacher, and president of the Philadelphia Council of the National Negro Congress.

The scene was the first mass meeting in support of the campaign for the election of Lieutenant Greene, and it was held at McDowell Community Church, 21st street and Columbia avenue.

OCT 17 1942

Declaring that he was opposed to discrimination, because of race and color, Rabbi Decter said Lieutenant Greene must be elected.

"We must make democracy work at home if we expect to make it work abroad," Rabbi Decter continued. "Lieutenant Greene has as much right to serve in the Congress of the United States as anyone else and we must send him there.

Must Use Power

He likened the economic conditions and status of the Jewish people to that of the Negro and said the Negro must use his political power to advantage and fight the forces that would discriminate against them because of their color.

Mrs. Watson said Negroes of the 4th Congressional District should go to the polls on November 3rd and vote 100 percent for Lieutenant Greene.

52a-1942

Charleston S. C. News & Courier
February 22, 1942

Would Admit Negroes to Primaries

The appropriation of $12,000, or any sum, by the general assembly, to pay the debt incurred by the Democratic party of South Carolina in holding a state primary for United States senator in 1941, is legislation to admit and to invite negroes to vote in the South Carolina primaries. The proposal is in the appropriation bill now pending.

Negroes pay taxes. Legislation requiring negroes to contribute money to the support of a poltical party from which they are excluded is manifestly preposterous .

An effort financed and pressed by Northern negroes and their white political comrades to force the admission of negroes into white primaries in Southern states has been going on the last six or eight years. The federal courts sustained a demand of negroes for the right to vote in primaries of Texas, the primary system of that state having had a legal status and recognition that it has not in South Carolina. For this reason, presumably, no suit at law for the admission of negroes to the South Carolina primaries has been brought.

The effort to break down other Southern state policies in respect of negroes is proceeding. The movement to abolish poll taxes as a requirement for voting in elections is gaining ground and is not without support from Southern "liberals" and "philosophic New Dealers". So is the movement for "mixed racial colleges and schools".

It should be plain to persons of common intelligence that taxpayers compelled to contribute to the support of a political party cannot be excluded from membership in it and participation in its affairs, and it may be taken for granted that Republican and negro leaders quietly gloat when they read of the $12,000 item in the pending appropriation bill.

One of two inferences must necessarily be drawn from the presence of the item in the appropriation bill. The first is that its authors and backers wish the negroes as voters in South Carolina primaries and would not object to the destruction of the state Democracy as an exclusive white man's party for the selection of state and county officers. That, The News and Courier flatly rejects. It does not believe that any of the legislators would have the white primary system abolished.

The second is that the general assembly is not awake to the purport of the proposal that tax revenues be used for the support of a political party and to the inevitable consequence that would follow, namely, the "negroizing", in considerable degree, of the white primaries. To accept that conclusion would be equivalent to saying that in the general assembly are no capable and informed lawyers, no lawyers in some degree familiar with the principles of constitutional law and the recent decisions of the United States courts.

Negroes pay taxes in South Carolina.

Columbia, S. C. Record
February 20, 1942

Three To Be Tried For Denying Voting Rights

SPARTANBURG, Feb. 20.—(AP)—Judge C. C. Wyche set for Thursday in federal district court the trial of three members of the Cherokee county registration board charged with conspiring to refuse four allegedly qualified Negro electors registration certificates and the right to vote.

The defendants are F. E. Ellis, John E. Wright and T. E. Meetze.

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

WHITE CITIZENS OF S. C. DEMAND VOTE FOR NEGROES

Say Scheme Gives Too Much Power to Few Reactionary Southern Congressmen

COLUMBIA, S. C. (ANP)—Reversing all known concepts of the lily white south and setting a new standard of democratic principles for all states south of Mason and Dixon's celebrated line, 21 of Columbia's outstanding white citizens this week urged that Negroes be permitted to vote in the Democratic primaries of South Carolina.

A proposal signed by the public-spirited and tolerant white leaders asked the South Carolina Democratic convention to appoint a committee to study the question of

SOUTH CAROLINA

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

"We Don't Want Negro Votes," Declare S. C. Office Seekers

JUN 13 1942

LEXINGTON, S.C., June 11—(ANP)—Neither Olin D. Johnston, former governor, nor Wyndham M. Manning, both Democratic gubernatorial candidates, wants Negro participation in the Democratic party primaries, they revealed Tuesday at a mass meeting here during which war and peace problems were discussed.

As the meeting was ending, A. B. H. Hogan, of Columbia, liberal white, arose and said: "I'd like to ask the candidates what is their attitude toward Negroes voting. The Democratic convention in May carried this matter over for two years and one of the candidates will be governor when that time comes."

WHITE MAN'S PARTY

"I'll be glad to answer that," said Johnston. "I believe in white voters staying in the Democratic party. If the colored people want a party, let them organize one."

Said Manning: "I'm surprised that such a question should be asked. The Democratic party is a white man's party and must be so maintained."

Negro suffrage, "and try to arrive at some plan by which qualified Negroes may vote in the Democratic primaries of this state."

The proposal, in full is as follows:

"The undersigned white citizens of South Carolina believe that the time has come when steps should be taken toward recognizing the political rights of the Negroes of this state. The following considerations prompt us to this view:

"1. Many of our Negro citizens are keenly desirous of exercising their rights of citizenship. We believe that they are now fitted by education and experience to assume the responsibilities that go with citizenship.

"2. The Constitution of the United States gives them these rights in theory, but they have been denied them by political devices within the Southern states. These devices cannot continue to stand and are certain to be destroyed by the courts of this country.

"3. We believe that an understanding and sympathetic approach to this problem by the white people of South Carolina will result in making our Negro citizens friendly and co-operative and that they will join the good white people in seeking good government. There is in this an opportunity for the whites and the blacks to develop a mutual respect and good feeling. If the problem is to be attacked by the Negro with the aid from outside sources, we believe that both the whites and the Negroes will lose in the process.

"4. We do not believe that it is either necessary or advisable that the Democratic party be thrown open to Negroes indiscriminately. Nor do we believe that anything but good would come from establishing minor educational and character qualifications for membership of whites in the party. We believe that carefully considered qualifications of this kind, applied to whites and blacks, might result in a definite improvement in our political institutions.

"5. We are today waging a world-wide war in the name of Democracy. Our Negroes are joining in our effort. We should take care that they share in the freedom and liberty which we think are worth fighting for. A move in this direction now by South Carolina will do much to convince the Chinese, the people of India, the South Americans and others, that Democracy in America is really jealous of human rights. That we are guarding our own and shall help to guard theirs.

"6. We therefore urge the state Democratic convention, meeting in Columbia this month, to appoint a committee to study this question and try to arrive at some plan by which qualified Negroes may vote in the Democratic primaries in this state.

J. Heyward Gibbes, R. Beverley Herbert, John W. Robinson, Jr., Henry W. Fair, Frank Hampton, Marion A. Park, F. W. Bradley, LeGrand Geurry, William Elliott, A. C. Flora, E. C. L. Adams, Hugh E. Wyman, William Weston, James Derieux, James W. Jackson, A. C. Heyward, W. M. Perry, Fitz Hugh McMaster, Mrs. James R. Cain, M. A. Wright, J. Owen Smith.

S. C. Gubernatorial Candidates Don't Want Negroes As Democrats

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"The Weekly Review"
Birmingham, Ala.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

THE NEED FOR CHANGING

By JOHN McCRAY

Democracy Is Costly

"There is nothing free under the sun" the old folks used to say. It costs to live; it costs to breathe; and it costs to be an American. For Negroes, the cost of democracy is often extreme.



A typical example of what seeking to perpetuate democracy costs American Negroes is Mrs. Lottie P. Gaffney of Gaffney, S. C. who a few weeks ago, was fired from an eleven-year-old position as a school teacher. Mrs. Gaffney had sought to vote, not in the Democratic primary but in the general election. She tried four times. Four times was the door slammed in her face. "Voting is for white people," she was told.

But being an American, and believing in the American way of life, Mrs. Gaffney appealed to the courts for consideration. That was what any other American would have done. But a strange story was told the court. Voting was not referred to as a white man's privilege. She had not asked at the right time or on the right day, the court was told. Her plea was ignored. Mrs. Gaffney had paid the second time for democracy. But this wasn't all.

was told. Her plea was ignored. Mrs. Gaffney had paid the second time for democracy. But this wasn't all.

A third price was paid by Mrs. Gaffney when she was curtly dismissed from her job. Hers is a splendid record; her conduct in the community is praised by those she has served. Her educational qualifications are far above those of average. Her character is above reproach. But she is a Negro and the charge to her, as to others of her race, is exorbitant

The story of Mrs. Gaffney stands as a beacon light to those Negroes who believe that full and complete democracy is to be had in this fair south of ours by fair and decent means, by patience and without pain. You, on your farm, in your store or office, in yor pulpit and in your home, beware. It is a hard fight and it is a heart-breaking one. The faint of heart need not enter.

Although I do not know the complete joys of freedom and democracy I see about me daily the happy and free faces of those who do know it. If it can bring them such great joy it is worth my life fighting for, not only on the battlefield, but on the streets and in my backyard. The benefits of this democracy are so great that they are well worth the cost, even though the cost to me is "extra."

Mrs. Gaffney is that kind of person, too. With more to lose than any one else she has made up her mind. They just can't kick her but so far and each time she'll bounce right back for another crack at that thing called "democracy." She is glad to pay the price. She has shown this already. More than that, she can take it! Can you?

Can you who seek more freedom, a cessation of persecution, the common joys of a God-created world pay the cost and smile? Can you take it and bounce back for another crack? If you can do these things, then brother let's get going. I am your comrade. We die or we live together.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Eugene Blease Says NAACP Spends Money In S. C. Politics

COLUMBIA, S. C. (ANP)—Charges that the NAACP is "spending money to control the fall elections" were aired last week at political meetings in Union and Laurens.

In Union, Judge Eugene S. Blease of Newberry, running for the senate against the incumbent, Sen. Maybank, told a political meeting "Too much money has been spent in South Carolina politics. Outside influences are seeking to control the elections in South Carolina.

"The Society for the Advancement of Colored People, which is dominated by the Negroes and their northern white sympathizers, are sending money into the state to control the election.

"We need someone in Washington who will speak out. If they will let us alone, we can get along with the Negroes. In Washington I am told by a reliable person that our white ladies are instructed to address all Negro office heads of the federal departments as 'Mister'.

"Eugene Blease will never stand for that. They don't want to see Blease sent to Washington. I am told that the Society for the Advancement of Colored People in Columbia boasts they have $6,000 in the bank to fight for the right to vote in our primary election."

In the meeting at Laurens similar charges were aired by Blease who added that "the South should be left to settle the Negro question in its own way."

Clinton, S. C. Chronicle
July 30, 1942

LAURENS VOTERS HEAR CANDIDATES PRESENT CLAIMS

Blease Attacks Waste, Extravagance and Politics. Manning and Johnston Tell of Qualifications.

Laurens, July 27. — Candidates for the Democratic nominations for South Carolina political offices spoke in the courthouse here Monday afternoon at 4 o'clock before a fairly good-sized audience.

U. S. Senator Burnet R. Maybank, candidate for re-nomination, did not appear but sent a telegram expressing regret and telling the voters he was doing his utmost to support the war program.

His opponent, Eugene S. Blease of Newberry, the former chief justice, charged there was an organization in Washington which sought to advance the Negro race to influence the vote for the senate.

He said that in making the race, he was not seeking personal gain or glory for himself but, if elected, he hoped to have the opportunity of "rendering some service to my state."

He stressed the "waste, idleness and corruption" he charged was in the federal government and declared it must stop, adding that "America can not stand it."

"To much money has been spent in South Carolina politics," he continued. "Outside influences are seeking to control the elections in South Carolina.

"The Society for the Advancement of Colored People, which is dominated by the Negroes and their white sympathizers in the North, are sending money into the state to control the election.

"We need someone in Washington who will speak out. If they will let us alone, we can get along with the Negroes. In Washington, I am told by a reliable person, that our white ladies are instructed to address all Negro office heads of the federal departments as 'Mister.'

"Eugene Blease will never stand for that. They don't want to see Blease there (to Washington). I am told that the Society for the Advancement of Colored People in Columbia boasts they have $6,000 in the bank to fight for the right to vote in our primary election."

Blease continued to attack waste and extravagance in government and said that the nation should "adjourn politics for the duration of the war."

President Roosevelt is doing all in his power to win the war but is not being advised as to the true conditions of the country, Blease said.

Blease said that his one ambition in entering the race was to prove to the people that a man could be elected to the senate without spending "a whole lot of money."

Saying that he had borrowed $3,000 to make the race, Blease said that "every dollar of it is Eugene Blease's money and I will not accept any contributions from anybody."

Olin D. Johnston of Spartanburg, candidate for the gubernatorial nomination, continued to review the trials of his early years, his World war service and a political career which landed him in the governor's chair in 1934.

During his administration, he said, rural electrification got its start in the state, aviation fields were built, armories constructed, old age pensions established, labor laws improved, a fertilizer inspection bill passed, teachers' salaries raised, and school houses built.

Johnston said that he had only one fight when he was governor and that was with the state highway department.

"As a result," he said, "that department today is a better department and the motorists of this state pay much less for their license plates."

Wyndham M. Manning, gubernatorial candidate, said he did not intend, if elected, to tear down the verdicts rendered by juries of South Carolina. He spoke out against "wholesale pardons" and commutations of sentences, saying each case should be decided and studied on its own merits.

"Let us hold this state in trust for our boys and girls when they return after the war," declared the formy army officer. "When they return they will not find taxes eating up their farm, business and office.

"I want us to be able to say, when they come back—that is, when peace has come, and it will come some day—we have kept the faith. You have come resume your life. You have come back to a peaceful state."

What the state needs now, he declared, is a sane, sound administration and he promised to give the people that if elected.

He promised full co-operation with all public-spirited officials and declared that his training and experience fitted him to handle the problems that would arise during the period of war and the time of peace.

52a-1942

Spartanburg, S. C. Herald
August 19, 1942

Campaign Reminiscence

The senatorial campaign in South Carolina is nearing its close. Monday night next it will be all over but the voting. Tuesday the primary will decide the issue.

Looking back over the campaign and reading the speeches of the candidates we are impressed by two chief appeals for his nomination made by Judge Blease. Most important is the use of that moth-eaten issue of racial friction in South Carolina and the South which has been used by many Southern politicians when in a hot spot ever since the War Between the States.

The writer was listening to political talks in the South just about the time Judge Blease shed his diapers. Way back in those remote days, or shortly thereafter, he attended a political speaking. It was held under the oak trees near a little country town. There was a little stand for the speakers and the audience leaned against the tree trunks or squatted at their bases. Some whittled pieces of soft white pine they had brought for the occasion. Some chewed their quids and shot at luckless flies that came within reach of their "ambeer." A few sat in their one-horse buggies or wagons in which they had ridden to the speaking.

The scene and the speeches are indelibly fixed in our mind. The welkin rang with the same old dud that Judge Blease has tossed into his campaign, namely, the expression of prejudice against the Negroes and the Yankees.

There was talk of disturbances even in those ancient The writer has passed more than years since then, but he has never fulfillment of the fears expressed. There have been local disturbances between whites and blacks in the South and North but they were purely local. We have witnessed some of them, but most of them were not in the South. We witnessed the affair of San Juan Hill in New York City, that in Akron, O., and another in Evansville, Ind., but all of them were more than 30 years ago. Judge Blease should read up on them and see how they came about and who provoked them.

We have heard of no such incidents in South Carolina except that in Greenwood week before last which was attributed by the leading men of that city to a group of hoodlums. Judge Blease knows about that, so it is hardly worth mentioning here.

Sixty years have failed to produce the racial friction Judge Blease fears, yet he flung the question into his campaign apparently to gain some votes. This newspaper held that he had been unwise, that he had been unkind to the white people of his state as well as to the Negroes. We said that history will write it so. Using a pet sentence of his, we repeat.

Judge Blease's second appeal was that to the farmers. We maintain that his race attitude promises only loss for the farmers. The Judge has said, and he has repeated it, that he is a farmer and he lamented the effect of certain New Deal policies upon his farm investments. He even pulled out of the bag that stuff about plowing up cotton and other crops a few years ago. At that time the farmers were receiving little for their produce. Since then they have approved by their own votes the policy of restricting the areas of certain crops. Judge Blease said nothing about that. It would have been poor politics to attack the farmers themselves, though their votes accomplished the same results as the plowing up of parts of crops.

But we are thinking of what would result if the majority of the Southern people felt as does Judge Blease about the Negro question. Thank God they do not! As we recall his speech at Camden he said: "The colored population believes that the government should feed them. They don't want to grow cotton and corn. They want to get out."

Now Judge, what are the facts? What per cent of the on and corn in South Carolina w be produced by Negro farmers and tenants in 1942? What per cent has been produced every year since your old black mammy rubbed your little tummy when it ached, put you to sleep and sat by your trundle bed to fan away the flies? Do not be unfair to the colored friends of whom you boasted last week.

If the majority of the people of South Carolina felt as Judge Blease who would plow the acres he says he owns. We assume most of his tenants are colored. Could they remain in the state if all South Carolinians were like Judge Blease?

Again we charge Judge Blease with unfairness in his frantic search for votes. He forgets that not a courthouse in the state was built without Negro labor; that Negro labor has entered into the construction of every mile of highways in the state; that there is hardly a white church building in the state in the construction of which Negro labor was not employed; that Negro tenants and farmers probably raise more than half the cotton and corn of the state; that Negroes have helped build the homes, barns and every factory building in South Carolina.

Then, why in the name of common sense, does Judge Blease want to make it so uncomfortable for the Negroes of the state that they would be forced to seek homes in the North? As we have said before, and we repeat, Judge Blease's campaign speeches do not make sense. He is a novice in politics, but even a novice should know better.

As a lawyer Judge Blease was successful. As a member of the supreme court he was brilliant. As a politician, who entered the campaign on the spur of the moment, one must say, without wishing to be disrespectful, that Judge Blease is a flop. No. We do not like that word. Let us say that Judge Blease has blundered.

The admission will not interest our inspired contemporary, The Spartanburg Herald.

The News and Courier has no objection to giving the negroes "a break in wartime employment" but the point is that it was "widely advertised" by the "administration".

The negroes on the Southern cotton and tobacco farms are engaged in "wartime employment", and employers are paying them the wages that they can afford to pay. The employers are not making fortunes. How does the pay of the negroes compare with pay in steel mills?

Meantime, 415,000 of 650,000 white persons of voting age in South Carolina were not sufficiently interested in gasoline to vote in the primary for senator.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
September 15, 1942

"Widely Advertised"

The Washington editor of The New Republic, New York, in his "Notes" writes:

"Friends of Senator Maybank, who was renominated in South Carolina but by an uncomfortably narrow margin, reported that this Southern New Dealer's troubles were caused chiefly by resentment at gasoline rationing and by the Administration's widely advertised determination to give negroes a break in wartime employment. There were local showers in South Carolina all right, but it wasn't raining the rain of discontent over the progress of the war; it was raining the daffodils of indignation over the war-imposed sacrifice of unlimited driving privileges".

Thus we have admission from a high New Deal authority that the "Administration", not Mr. Eugene Blease, injected the "race question" into the South Carolina contest.

Tampa, Fla. Tribune
September 13, 1942

It Won't Work

(Atlanta Journal)

Voters of South Carolina have given deserved rebuke to a candidate for the Senate, Eugene S. Blease, who injected racial issue into his campaign. Senator Burnet R. Maybank, strong supporter of the Roosevelt administration, defeated Blease in the primary.

That a candidate who raises the racial issue is raising an utterly unfounded and false issue is self-evident. At least in the South, the relations between the two races are not such as to cause alarm. The candidate for office who raises the ancient cry of "nigger, nigger," is doing so only because he thinks thereby to gain votes and has no scruples whatsoever as to how he gains them.

For Blease, of South Carolina, it may be said he did not, at the start, predicate his campaign upon such an unworthy issue. He adopted it when he realized he was trailing in the race.

Not so much can be said for Talmadge, of Georgia. He laid the groundwork for that shameful issue in equally shameful manner in his notorious legal lynching of professors at the University of Georgia. His act was premeditated and deliberate, not done in the stress of a campaign.

Greenwood, S. C. Index-Journal
September 23, 1942

Editorial Comment

"WIDELY ADVERTISED"

From the News and Courier.

The Washington editor of The New Republic, New York, in his "Notes" writes:

"Friends of Senator Maybank, who was renominated in South Carolina but by an uncomfortably narrow margin, reported that this Southern New Dealer's troubles were caused chiefly by resentment at gasoline rationing and by the Administration's widely advertised determination to give negroes a break in wartime employment. There were local showers in South Carolina all right, but it wasn't raining the rain of discontent over the progress of the war; it was raining the daffodils of indignation over the war-imposed sacrifice of unlimited driving privileges."

Thus we have admission from a high New Deal authority that the "Administration", not Mr. Eugene Blease, injected the "race question" into the South Carolina contest.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
September 27, 1942

If It Should Happen Here

Attorney O. D. Johnston, who, while serving an apprenticeship as governor, ran from the White House steps in 1938 for United States senator (he may run again), President Roosevelt breathing blessings upon him as the hope of saving the country from the talons of Ellison D. Smith, was for some reason or other dropped like a hot potato by the White House in 1941 when federal office-holders were for Mr. Maybank against him. (Mr. Johnston lost about half his strength in Charleston between the two primaries that year.)

How to account for the hotpotatoish unhandling of Mr. Johnston by the White House The News and Courier has never heard, but it remembers a speech by Mr. Johnston in Sumter in which he said that "he ran off negroes" when they came to his meetings, and that may have given serious offence to Messrs. Wagner, Guffey and to the White House, as well as offence in Harlem and the Second Ward of Chicago.

It prompts the question: suppose, only suppose, and we don't want it, some terribly bad citizen with plenty of money should offer for governor in South Carolina in a general election against Mr. Johnston and colored people wishing to vote for him should be denied registration certificates or intimidated on election day, would or would not federal Authority interfere in their behalf?

Democrats were sent from South Carolina to watch an election in Pennsylvania in New Deal times, and, if we are not in error, Big Men of South Carolina got the job for some of their constituents.

The question before the South Carolinians is serious: were an independent candidate supported by colored persons to offer for governor of South Carolina, would or would not a federal administration tied-up with the hundreds of thousands of negro Democrats in the big Northern cities, keep an eye on the election, send men to watch it, to have the colored voters protected everywhere in the state and to have their votes honestly counted and returned?

In justice, indeed in mercy, to Attorney Johnston, The News and Courier risks the opinion that he has repented his saying in Sumter about running off negroes who came to his meetings and that he is now in tune again with the White House. Off and on singing in tune with the president is a Spartanburg habit.

Once more The News and Courier recalls the assertion of Mr. James F. Byrnes, then a powerful senator, on the floor of the senate in January, 1938:

"The negro has not only come into the Democratic party, but the negro has come into control of the Democratic party."

Columbia, S. C. State
September 25, 1942

Republicans Name Tolbert As Leader

South Carolina Republicans, those under the banner of Joseph W. (Tieless Joe) Tolbert of Ninety-Six, held their state convention in a lodge hall on the 1100 block of Washington street yesterday, elected officers for four-year terms and adopted several resolutions.

This convention was held two days after another group, termed the Republican party of South Carolina, held its convention in the ball room of the Jefferson hotel. It was presided over by J. Bates Gerald, state chairman, of Charleston. This group was recognized in 1940 as the official Republican party of South Carolina.

The convention yesterday was attended by some 30 or 35 delegates, most of them Negroes. At its conclusion, a statement was given out, reading, in part, as follows: "The Republican party of South Carolina, meeting in Columbia, September 24, is proud of its record of continuous activity from 1866 to the present and has never broken the chain; even though we have had reverses, the flag is still flying high."

OFFICERS

Officers elected: Joseph W. Tolbert, state chairman; T. H. Pinkney, St. George, vice chairman; Dr. D. J. Dixson, Barnwell, secretary; I. S. Leevy, Columbia, treasurer.

Chairman Tolbert said representatives from each district were present and that the meeting was "most harmonious in every respect." The delegates, it was said, "were loud in their praise of their leader, Mr. Tolbert."

The chairman said he did not think the party would put out candidates for the national congress in the November elections. "We are interested in holding our party together," he said.

In resolutions adopted, the convention reaffirmed its "allegiance to the principles of the party of Abraham Lincoln, it being a fact that the periods of permanent prosperity have been under the rule of our party.

"We affirm our allegiance and support to our President and the national government in the prosecution of its foreign policy in connection with the great war that is being waged against democratic institutions, urging our constituency to do its full share in all military and civilian defenses" the resolutions read.

TWO PARTIES

Also the convention declared that it believed that the "ultimate freedom of the people in political and civic life depends upon a two party system. To this end, we appeal to the citizens who are inclined to a belief in the principles of the Republican party to secure registration certificates, this being the only safeguard against bias and injustice in the administration of law."

The resolutions further set forth: "We reaffirm our wholehearted allegiance to the national Republican party which has denounced the assembling of a political convention in a hotel where discrimination against fellow citizens exist.

"We go on record as deploring and denouncing the practice of political trickery in efforts to secure recognition in the national organization, believing that truth will finally prevail and all Republicans, regardless of petty differences, will ultimately unite in forming a solid front under the banner of the Grand Old Party."

Columbus, Ga. Ledger
August 26, 1942

S. C. Candidate Loses On 'White Supremacy'

Sen. Maybank Beats E. S. Blease In Close Major Primary Election

COLUMBIA, S. C., Aug. 26— AP)—Sen. Burnet R. Maybank, an administration supporter, held a 4,000-vote majority today over Eugene S. Blease, who campaigned as a champion of "white supremacy," on incomplete returns in their race for the democratic nomination for U. S. senator.

In the closest major primary contest of recent years in South Carolina, Maybank, after trailing in early counts, forged ahead with reports from 1,385 of the state's 1,536 precincts giving him 102,093 votes against 98,079 for Blease.

Former Gov. Olin D. Johnston apparently won over Wyndham M. Manning of Sumter for the gubernatorial nomination. Johnston, governor from 1935 to 1939, had 103,850 votes to 96,433 for Manning, making his third race.

Representatives Butler B. Hare of the third district, J. P. Richards of the fifth, and John L. McMillan of the sixth were far ahead of their opponents and apparently assured of renomination. The state's three other members of the house were unopposed.

The democratic nomination is tantamount to election.

No national issues developed in any of the races, but Blease, 65-year-old former chief justice of the state supreme court and a half brother of the late Sen. Cole L. Blease, was criticized by some newspapers which charged that he had raised the racial issue in his campaign.

Blease replied that the racial issue was raised last spring when efforts were made to have Negroes enrolled in the state's white democratic primary. He pledged support to the administration in waging the war.

Maybank, who was elected to the senate last summer in a special election called to fill the vacancy created at the elevation of James F. Byrnes to the U. S. supreme court, told voters he had supported the president's war program 100 per cent.

SURE OF ELECTION

On the face of incomplete returns, a second primary will be necessary to decide the nominees for lieutenant governor and comptroller general, the only two state races in which there were contests.

LIEUT. GOVERNOR

With 1,317 precincts tabulated the vote for lieutenant governor stood: E. Coke Bridges 50,418, Georgia K. Laney 64,633, Ransome Williams 54,851.

In the four-man race for comptroller general, the standing was: Quince E. Britt 30,617, Lott Lawson 33,011, E. C. Rhodes 55,072, D. A. Smith 50,066.

The runoff will be held Sept. 8.

For congress, the vote was: Third district, 294 of 326 precincts, Rep. Butler B. Hare 24,807, John C. Taylor 15,805; fifth, 153 of 238, Grover F. Patton 4,472, Rep. J. P. Richards 13,118; sixth, 228 of 259, C. T. McDonald 7,246, Rep. John L. McMillan 18,125, Fred W. Willis 1,662.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Chattanooga Points The Way

Recent press reports that colored Chattanoogans are running their own candidate, a Dentist, for a seat in the city council. This is encouraging news coming from a city just a little over a hundred miles north of Atlanta. But before Chattanooga took this step she got 15,000 names on the voting lists. The race members is this Tennessee city are to be commended for their interest in the affairs of their city. All citizens in all communities must become more interested in all the various public officials if TRUE democracy is to survive.

The latest census reports only 36,308 Negroes for Chattanooga and 15,000 of this number are registered to vote. while Atlanta has a colored population of 104,154, but only about 3,000 of this number are registered. This is a situation that should challenge our civic, school and religious leaders. We must put more emphasis on the civic and political phases of our life.

Of course Chattanooga and Tennessee as a state do not have the barriers against voting by the race as do Atlanta and the state of Georgia, but regardless of the obstacles we must vote in larger numbers if we are to get the full benefits that are due us as citizens.

John Wesley Dobbs of the Civic and Political League has stated publicly that if we will give him 10,000 voters in Fulton county he would "walk in Jerusalem just like John." Let's give Dobbs this number of voters and do it quickly so we can participate in the elections that are to take place this year.

Chattanooga Tenn. Daily Times
March 1, 1942

To the Negro Voters

One of Them Warns His Fellows Against the 'Ward Heelers'

To the Editor of The Chattanooga Times:

Please allow me space in your paper to say just a word or two to the voters of Chattanooga and Hamilton County of my group. Since this is the first time that the bars have been let down for Negroes to vote in the democratic primary. I do think we should be particularly careful in our voting on March 5 for the several candidates, and whatever we do, try to do it intelligently and not be hauled to the polls by ward heelers and henchmen to vote for the man of their choice, whom we do not know. Then after voting their way, all we get out of it is a drink of whisky and a sandwich; and we do not get another free ride or a free drink or a free sandwich until the next voting time. Now this is one time let us think for ourselves and vote our own sentiments. Let us read the newspapers, listen to the radio, do our own thinking. Let the ward heelers know that we have eyes to see and ears to hear.

WILLIAM E. THORNHILL.
Chattanooga.

Chattanooga Tenn. Daily Times
February 21, 1942

NEGRO VOTERS SEEM TO HOLD PRIMARY'S KEY

ut 10,000 Are Registered nd Appear to Have Power Balance for First Time

BY FRED HIXSON

preliminary survey of registration statistics in Hamilton county indicates that colored voters, haps for the first time in the tory of local politics, have the ance of power in the March 5 nocratic primary, that is, as- ning that they are permitted to e unchallenged except for pre- ting a registration certificate. This survey indicates that there about 10,000 Negroes regis- ed. A total of 49,291 registration certificates are outstanding, t it is likely that there are a rly large number of duplications this list. It appears now that ere will be a total vote of be- een 25,000 and 30,000 on March The issues have been so sharply awn in some of the races, and rticularly the race for county ige, that the colored vote, if st in a block for either of the o candidates, might be decisive. ere are indications that more an 5,000 colored persons will esent themselves to vote in the mocratic primary. The demo- atic primary board has not made ruling, at least publicly, on the estion as to whether the bars ll be let down to the colored ters. Traditionally, the Negro voter has been identified with the republican party. But for the past few years he has left the republicans for the democratic party.

Qualification Provisions

In calling the primary the Hamilton county democratic executive committee set up the following provisions as to who would be qualified to participate:

"Regular voters in, or who are members of the democratic party, in Hamilton county, Tennessee, and who have properly registered and qualified to vote*** shall have the right to participate and vote in the county democratic primary election."

The primary board will have to be governed by the language of the resolution calling the primary. But the language is broad and, therefore, subject to interpretation. The regular voters in the democratic primary are fairly well known in their precincts and little trouble will be experienced in carrying out this provision of the primary call. The phrase "who are members of the democratic party," however, is broad and under a liberal interpretation a person entering the voting precinct could instantly declare himself or herself a member of the democratic party, irrespective of past affiliations, and thereby become eligible. This phrase in the primary call may result in trouble in some of the precincts March 5.

Walter Robinson, Fourth ward republican leader, for instance, has been taking a hand in the primary campaign. He has presided over at least one meeting and is reported to have been generally active in organizing the colored vote. In the 1940 presidential election, however, Robinson organized his followers for the republican presidential candidate. If Robinson returns on March 5 with this group of colored voters and attempts to enter them in the primary for any candidate or group of candidates, it is likely he will be challenged. The Negro leader has made no statements since the 1940 election to indicate that he has transferred his allegiance from the republican to the democratic party and candidates who have reason to believe he is opposing them in the primary can be expected to challenge any colored voters he may attempt to direct.

Sid Byers a Democrat

On the other hand, Sid H. Byers, colored leader in the Bushtown precinct—Fourth precinct of the Twelfth ward — openly declared himself a democrat several years ago and has been supporting democratic candidates.

The heavy Negro registration has occurred in precincts in which both Robinson and Byers have influence. In the Fourth ward, Robinson's group and his opposition combined, registered more voters than any other precinct in the county. A total of 1,956 registration certificates are outstanding in the Fourth. In the 1940 presidential election, Robinson carried the Fourth ward for Wendell L. Willkie by a vote of 228 to 195. Byers in Bushtown carried his precinct for Roosevelt by 221 to 157.

The bulk of the Negro vote will be found along Ninth street, in Bushtown, Fort Cheatham, in the Fourth ward, which includes the area where the colored housing project is situated, and in certain areas of South Chattanooga—Fifth and Eighth wards.

Globe and Independer
Nashville, Tenn.
JUN 26 1942

WE MUSTN'T FORGET

Nashvillians will shortly be called upon to choose between a Cummings and an anti-Cummings slate of candidates for the state legislature.

It will be necessary, of course, to know the identity of those on both tickets for the average citizen to decide whether to back either slate or to choose from among the candidates on both slates the men believed to have the best interests of Nashville a theart.

However, we have no hesitancy in saying that any legislative ticket which has the endorsement of Mayor Thomas L. Cummings and which he will say is committed to preserving the gains in good government that have been made in recent years will deserve the careful c onsideration of the masses of voters—both white and colored.

We do not think there is an upright citizen in Nashville who knows the kind of government Nashville had prior to the Cummings administration who conscientiously would advocate bringing back into power the "Old Guard" crowd that ruled this city to its detriment over a stretch of 20 or more years.

It was during those years when we had so much political corruption; when colored candidates for councilman were actually elected and then defrauded by the boys who were so adept at doing fantastic tricks with ballot boxes and poll tax receipts and vote-counting. Nashville was as skilled as Memphis in those days when it came to defrauding the people of the right to vote and to have their votes counted as cast. Nashville then worked hand in glove with the Memphis machine.

But since then, and under the regime of Mayor Thomas L. Cummings, Nashville has become the leading place in Tennessee from the standpoint of holding fair and honest elections. There is every reason to believe that the fine example of guaranteeing to every citizen his right to participate fairly in the election of his officials, as set by Nashville, will shortly become the standard for the whole state. But there is a danger of the state becoming more corrupt in its elections than is now the case if the progressiveism of Nashville is destroyed by bringing back into power politicians who just must have office a "drag" or a "differential" of some sort to get elected to office. Politicians who specialize in frauds to get into office are seldom concerned about giving on to their tricks and tricksters.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Named First Negro Deputy In Knox County In 1876

FEB 27 1942

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. -- (SNS) -- It was in 1876 that Sheriff Alex Reeder, of Knox county, appointed Rad Jentele a deputy on his staff, marking the first appointment of a member of the Negro racial group to office in any state south of the Mason and Dixon line.

Sheriff Alex Reeder elected as the Republican candidate and serving efficiently as the county's chief law enforcement officer, was the father of the well known and greatly admired Knox countian, Ex-sheriff Lum Reeder, whose son, "Lum" Reeder is the present candidate for trustee of Knox county.

Despite opposition arising from the ranks of many who advised Sheriff Alex Reeder against the appointment of a Negro deputy, at which time they contended that the experiment would prove detrimental to the welfare of the populace, several older citizens now recall that Jentele's appointment proved satisfactory to all and made an excellent officer, with a record for fearless enforcement of the law.

The appointment of Jentele established a precedent that resulted, not only in the appointment of one Negro deputy by each high sheriff succeeding Sheriff Reeder, but each term since has found two or more Negro deputies working.

FEB 27 1942

The fine, fair and impartial attitude of Sheriff Alex Reeder is reflected not only in his son, ex-Sheriff Lum Reeder, now retired and living at his Hill Street home, but his several sons Colonel Claude Reeder, well known and popular automobile dealer, and his business partner, young and affable Ross Reeder, as well as "Lum" Reeder, Jr., candidate for trustee subject to the Republican primary of April 9, exhibit the same fine attitude, and have many friends among the entire populace of the county.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
March 9, 1942

NEGROES DISCUSS LAW ENFORCEMENT

Improvement Association Is Addressed by Edmonson, Commissioner Betterton

Thirty-three attended the meeting held under the auspices of the National Associiation for the Advancement of Colored People yesterday afternoon at First Congregational church to discuss "How to Improve Law Enforcement for National Defense."

Dr. N. B. Callier was the keynote speaker, before the introduction of Commissioner E. R. Betterton, vice-mayor, and chief of Police Homer D. Edmonson. Dr. Callier outlined the premise that "we should dwell together in peace and unity, and in doing so we will be able to reduce our crime wave and police brutality."

Commissioner Betterton told the group that a training school for Negro volunteer police will be started within the next ten days, and pledged co-operation of his department in "anything that goes wrong when properly brought to my attention."

"I hope to make you the best chief of police you have ever had," Chief Edmonson said in calling for the co-operation of the right-thinking substantial Negro citizens. In response to a quiz arranged by the executive committee of the organization, Chief Edmonson stated that "no committee has ever come to me from this organization with reference to the beating several weeks ago of a 15-year-old Negro boy by a policeman on Market street. The policeman was suspended for two days, however," the chief stated.

Conducting the quiz were Prof. T. D. Upshaw, Jr., Jennie Mondul, Harvey E. White and the Rev. C. J. Stanaley. Attorney W. L. Porter, of Knoxville, manager of the College hill courts housing project for Negroes, was called by Dr. P. A. Stephens, president of the association, for an address, and stated "we have no such trouble as you are discussing here today because our city has Negro policemen in the Negro districts which correspond to your Ninth street, and our sheriff has five Negro deputies who iron out the problems of the Negro group."

The International Ministers' alliance made a special contribution of $10 to the association, and an additional ten members were enrolled.

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

JUL 2

WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT

While the controversy between Mr. Silliman Evans, publisher of the NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN and Gov. Prentice Cooper is one over which men and women will debate, and express their opinions pro and con, it nevertheless is true that we have far too many political leaders steeped in the belief that a privileged class, represented by those who have money, should govern the people, and according to the ideas of these leaders as to what form of government the masses should have.

These leaders, it is true, represent only a minority, but it is a powerful minority from the standpoint of wealth and power. Down through the years a fierce battle has been waged in America between the leaders who represnt the minority rule of wealth and other leaders, born of the great common people, who have sought to make real the claim that ours is a government of, by and for the people, and one which derives its just powers from the consent of the governed.

Andrew Jackson, and Abraham Lincoln, statesmen born of the great common people, were thorough believers in having government serve the interests of the masses. Theodore Roosevelt and Franklin D. Roosevelt in modern times, have been champions of popular rule and both have "enjoyed" the hatred and hostility of the privileged classes.

It seems strange that the believers in the rule of the rich, privileged classes are unable to understand that their idea of government can be successful only in places where the people are ignorant or where, because of hard times and distress, the people become reconciled to giving up liberty for temporary security. No such conditions as these obtain in the United States, or at least they do not obtain to an extent that would make expectation of rule by the privileged classes a good investment.

The American masses are very generally educated; they know the purpose for which their country was founded; they know that the country's progress has been greatest under the rule of men who sought to better the lot of the common man and was least when those who served the wealthy, special interests managed the nation's affairs.

Whether Gov. Cooper did or did not say that he, at the instigation of Mr. Edward Crump of Memphis, defaulted on his promise to press for the repeal of the poll tax, the fact is he kept repeal from passing. He therefore can be counted as one of those who oppose the rule of the people and prefers rule by the agents of the rich special classes.

It is too well known, following the exhaustive report on how Tennessee and other states of the South came to adopt the poll tax—a report for which the people owe a great debt of gratitude to Mr. Jennings Perry of the Nashville Tennessean, that the poll tax was a device born of a desire of a minority, rich class to keep the masses of whites from voting. The working class of white people were becoming interested in economic reforms that would give them a larger share of the benefits of their labor on farms and in factories.

The propaganda accompanying the drive for enacting the poll tax always stressed the desire to maintain "white supremacy." It pictured Negroes as certain to be disfranchised, either because they would be too poor to pay the poll tax or too ignorant to pay it within the time limit that would permit them to vote. Away back there many whites of the working class were made happy in the feeling that the poll tax would not hurt them but would keep the Negro from voting.

But workers of the white race have been getting a liberal education in recent years, largely in their labor organizations. One such worker expressed himself at a meeting recently, saying that, whereas it was thought slavery had ended when Lincoln broke the shackles from the limbs of the Negro, it actually has come to pass that shackles of slavery have been put on the limbs of white workers and black workers alike by the exploiters of labor.

The poll tax, because it is a heavy financial burden, in the first place, and secondly, because the poll tax receipt is used by the agents of the ruling class in a corrupt manner, is an enemy of democracy but is "just what the doctor ordered" to maintain the supremacy of an exploiting, profiterring class over a vast majority of the people. Men like Gov. Prentice Cooper, who must have only a select few to do the voting, in order to get and retain office, are not likely ever to be sincerely in favor of letting the masses of whites or Negroes vote their full strength.

Chattanooga Tenn Daily Times
March 5, 1942

Negroes Indorse

Local 2216, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America (colored), at its regular meeting indorsed the candidacy of Wiley O. Couch, R. H. Craig, Dr. W. A. Thompson, Roy Reynolds and E. W. Wimpee, it was announced yesterday by Odell Lowery, president.

Globe and Independen
Nashville, Tenn.

Cummings-Luton Feud To Be Aired In 1942 Primary

City Administration Will Back Group of Rooseveltians in Opposition to "People's Ticket" Picked by "Old Guard"

A bitter battle between Mayor Thomas L. Cummings, defending his administration and Luther Luton, dissident member of the City Administration, who is said to be running already for Mayor in the election for next year, is to take place between two sets of candidates for the legislature this year. This race between the two legislative tickets promises to overshadow the contest for governor and other high officers to be nominated in the August primary, it is forecast.

It had been rumored for some time that Mayor Cummings would not be caught napping this year as he was in 1940 when an anti-administration group of representatives was sent from the city and came nearly playing havoc with city affairs. That year, Mayor Cummings did not call upon his friends to wage a hard fight to send an administration delegation to the legislature, and as a result his enemies chose a majority of the delegation which put over the present dictatorial Civil Service Board, named all of the members without consulting the Mayor and came near wrecking the councilmanic form of government for Nashville.

The scheme to deprive the people of the present councilmanic form of government had to be abandoned when the people learned what it was all about and let the legislators know that there would be a reckoning day for each and all of those who supported the measure.

The scheme to change the councilmanic form of government planned to have a council of eight members, who were to be "up-town" Big Wigs whom the common people "couldn't touch with a red apple." It is believed that the same scheme of getting rid of the city council and putting affairs into the hands of a small group of the "best minds" is likely to be sponsored by the "People's Ticket" should it be elected, while the "Democratic" or Administration Ticket will retain for the people the desirable right of electing their neighborhood men (or women) to help make the laws of the city.

Announcement on Wednesday of this week that the Democratic ticket would have the endorsement of Mayor Cummings and his loyal supporters was proof that the Mayor would take on the opposition in a fight to the finish. The announcement that the "People's Ticket" had the endorsement of Commissioner Luther Luton, and would get the support of The Nashville Banner, came as no surprise to those who keep up with city political affairs. The fact is there were expressions among many of the Cummings' partisans that they "wouldn't take anything" for the rumor that the People's Ticket will be backed by THE BANNER and also by Councilman John Lechleiter, who have the unfailing habit of giving the "kiss of death" to favorites whom they regularly send "up Salt River."

The chief reliance of the People's Ticket for mass support appears to be the popularity of the Hon. Will T. Cheek, leading citizen who persistently has sponsored the political ambitions of Mr. Luton and who is in politics this year managing the campaign of Governor Cooper for re-nomination. It is believed that the People's Ticket will be designated as the Cooper-Crump-McKellar ticket by Administration speakers and this will serve to rally liberal voters—the backers of President Roosevelt and friends of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt—in opposition to it.

THE NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN, leading Roosevelt newspaper of the South, is believed certain to give its support to the Democratic Ticket being sponsored by Mayor Cummings and with THE NASHVILLE BANNER plugging away for the People's Ticket, there is likely to be a miniature Roosevelt-Willkie contest, recalling the 1940 Presidential election, when The Banner fought its most notable battle to elect a President, supporting Willkie with such consuming enthusiasm as to lose all contact with the fact that Willkie didn't have a ghost of a show to win. Local Willkieites undoubtedly will be for the People's Ticket in full force, a fact that it is believed will help solidify Rooseveltians for the "Democratic Ticket." The Tennessean, it is believed, can be depended upon to keep before the voters the fact that the anti-Roosevelt leaders here would consider the election of the People's Ticket a victory for Cooper-Crump and McKellar over the President's friends.

The People's Ticket, it is predicted, will have an abundance of money to spend and already the "floater element" of colored voters is seen getting busy offering the ticket's managers the support of their "organizations." Again there are any number of these so-called organizations, which annually can make dupes out of some of the smartest white politicians in the city, much to the amusement of Negro leaders who know that these "organizations" are wholly without influence or actual members.

The People's Ticket, admittedly has some good men on it, but the fact that it is tied to the present Civil Service Board and is being sponsored by local politicians who have never given the Negro anything but some glad-handing, backslapping, watermelons, beer and barbecue, is likely to win for it among Negro voters the kind of loyalty that many, in recent elections, have been giving. Many Negro voters have had the bad habit of being slick enough to get the money of the unwary political candidates and managers, rendering no service for it and in several instances have actually campaigned for the election of "the other fellow."

The People's Ticket is composed of the following:

For State Senator— CLAUD CALLICOTT and J. H. BALLEW.

For Representative — NORMAN BINKLEY, Jr., GERALD FOLEY, VERNER C. KING, DR. WILLIAM P. WINTER, FRED S. POWELL and LOUIS ALLEN.

Besides the two tickets, there are a number of independent candidates running, some of whom might beat those on the picked tickets.

Knoxville, Tenn., Journal
August 3, 1942

Mitchell And Adcock Praised For Efficiency

Editor, The Knoxville Journal:

In complying with a request to express my observations of Chancellor A. E. Mitchell and Register Ralph Adcock, touching and reflecting the true attitude and spirit of these two distinguished officials, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to write a sincere and open admission what I feel will justify truth as a member of the citizenry of Knox County and a trusted friend of those who have had an abiding faith in me since long ago.

May I say that these days of world unrest and the political drama that plays everywhere are not games of folly but create, whether you believe or not, a serious situation in the lives of the American people. Therefore, a truth should be in the forefront without untarnished facts; it matters not what the ambition of men may be, I cannot permit myself to compromise with any group however distinguished or prominent.

My first visit on Gay Street many years ago carried me along that street where I looked up at the windows and among other things I saw painted in silver, "Grim, Mitchell and Steinmetz." All three are now in other positions. One has become Circuit Judge and one has been made Chancellor. The other is a learned professor in the Law Department at University of Tennessee, all served with honor and distinction.

During the past eight years I have had many cases involving different questions of law and equity in the Chancery Court. I watched the judicial actions of the chancellor with interest and I can truthfully say that there never was a time when he succumbed to bias, race prejudice or anything to show that the Negro had no rights in his court. I do not want to leave the erroneous impression that I won all of my fights in his court, but will say on the other hand I lost with honor and respect. Of course, if I thought him in error, I would try all I could to reverse him but not any time got miffed over the case and never will. Many people get mad at the judge because he decides questions of law as they come before him.

Now, with regard to Mr. Ralph Adcock, register, when I say that he has the most efficient, courteous staff of assistants I have ever seen, I tell the truth. During these short years it has been my privilege to examine the records in several jurisdictions. I think I am competent enough from experience to say I have never seen any kept better. It cannot be done. There is no atmospheric pressure on race or color. What more truth can I say. What more do any want to know. Long live these men.

JOHN A. HUFF.

Knoxville, Tenn. Banner
August 1, 1942

Newman Makes Bid for Negro Vote

The Democratic Legislative Ticket sponsored by Mayor Thomas L. Cummings and Jack Norman made its bid for the Negro vote last night at the corner of Sixteenth Avenue, North, and Jackson Street as the Rev. N. B. Morton, Negro preacher, gathered hundreds of Negroes together for "a big free outdoor concert" with an added inducement of "refreshments free."

Handbills distributed yesterday morning to every office in the City Hall announced the speaking and concert stating that there would be:

"Political speaking by Hon. James A. Newman and the Democratic Legislative Ticket. Mayor Thomas L. Cummings, Hon. Jack Norman and others will speak."

Neither Cummings nor Norman showed up for the meeting.

At about 10 o'clock Newman made a belated appearance and spoke briefly before he hurried away.

Alfred Rutherford, clerk of the City Traffic Court, spoke in behalf of the Democratic Ticket and for his brother, Charles H. Rutherford, Jr., who is a candidate for the lower house on the Cummings-Norman ticket. James Rutherford, another brother, who is county back tax attorney, was not present.

Harry Nelson, also a member of the Democratic Legislative ticket, spoke briefly and made his customary attack on THE NASHVILLE BANNER and then followed his usual theme that the Shelby County political faction was attempting to control Davidson County through the People's Legislative Ticket.

In spite of the announcement on the handbills that all members of the Democratic Legislative Ticket would speak with Cummings and Norman as added attractions, Nelson was the only member of the ticket who spoke with the exception of Newman.

Newman, following a custom he has adopted at a number of his other speakings, did not discuss the issues of the campaign with the hundreds of Negro voters present.

He told the crowd that had waited patiently for more than two hours standing in the street, that he would "like" to discuss the issues and would "like" to tell them what his views were on "education, civil service, TVA" and other topics, but didn't have "time" because of the lateness of the hour, previous engagements and various other reasons.

Newman told his audience that he had lived in Davidson County all his life and that his father died when he was nine years old and that he had been able to acquire very little education as he "came up" the "hard way."

He added that he was a "home grown" product. He did not say, as did Ed Glennon, Jr., campaign manager for his ticket said of the ticket, that he was "home grown and home owned." Newman used only the first part of the slogan and said that he was "home grown."

He added that he did not like "bosses." Particularly, he said, he did not like "political bosses," and he did not want any bosses from the "muddy waters of the Mississippi to send their hirelings down here and tell us how to live in Davidson County.

Will Do Right Thing

He said that if he was elected he would "do the same thing for you that I will do for anybody else . . . I will do the right thing . . . I will do what I think is right for everybody."

He told the crowd that if he was elected he would represent all the people. He said that he had been practicing law for 27 years and referring to Z. Alexander Looby, Negro lawyer who introduced him, he said that Looby could tell them that he (Newman) had been fairer to them (Negroes) "than anybody."

"The same constitution controls you that controls the rest of us," he said. "We all have the same rights and privileges in this great, democratic country." He said that THE BANNER had carried pictures of him "to amuse the children" and had been "saying bad things about me" but that nothing could detract from his standing in his community.

Homer Weimar, campaign manager for J. Ridley Mitchell for Governor, spoke in behalf of Mitchell's campaign and attacked Gov. Prentice Cooper for what he said was his discourteous attitude toward persons seeking audience with him. He promised that if Mitchell was elected the door to the Governor's office would be open to anyone seeking an audience and that every one "white or black" would be treated with courtesy.

Dr. Bauman spoke briefly for the Democratic Ticket and said that he could "vouch for the truth and

[illegible] had "sons[illegible] ple's Ticket [illegible] J. H. Ballew, [illegible] the Senate on the [illegible] Ticket had "attacked" the W[illegible]works Department and follo[illegible]d this observation by stating that he (Dr. Bauman) would "guarantee equal rights and pure water for everybody as long as I stay here."

He said that he was "just here in the interests of the Democratic Legislative Ticket." He said that he had not wanted to get into the legislative fight but that he had been "forced" to get in it.

C. L. Ennix, Negro lawyer, spoke in behalf of the candidacy of Congressman J. Percy Priest for re-election.

Looby, speaking for the Democratic Legislative Ticket, said that he was opposed to the present Civil Service system and in favor of the Mayor's ticket because the Civil Service Board, he said, refused to allow Negro applicants to qualify for stenographic and certain other city jobs.

"Who gave them the right," he said, "to say that applicants must be white? I am opposed to the present Civil Service Board because its members are answerable only to themselves."

Dr. S. L. Howard, another of the Negro speakers, said he had been asked to speak for the Democratic Legislative Ticket. He said he was speaking in behalf of "Mayor Thomas L. Cummings and Mr. Jack Norman" both of whom, he said, were personal friends of his.

"I am here," he said, "at the solicitation of Mayor Cummings and Mr. Jack Norman." He urged support of the Mayor's ticket.

The Fairfield Four, a well known quartet of Negro singers, sang several numbers and members of the quartet sang several solos which were well received by the crowd.

As the meeting drew to a close at 11 o'clock, Dr. Morton told the crowd to form a line and file by the corner where they would be given refreshments. "This is not an inducement for your vote," he said. Then as the crowd prepared to file by the designated point, he added that only, "those of voting age" would be served.

The Democratic Ticket spoke at Madison at 8 o'clock last night before Newman attended the Negro meeting at Sixteenth Avenue, North and Jackson Street.

During the Negro meeting Nelson and Bauman made their headquarters in the office of the Andrew Jackson Housing project across the street.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Free Press
June 3, 1942

G. O. P. SELECTS W. C. ROBINSON TO MAKE RACE

Colored Newspaperman Nominated by Party For County Council

By RUSS HART

Walter C. Robinson, Negro politician, manager of the Chattanooga Observer, and active worker for the Couch forces in the March primary, has been selected by Republican Party leaders as one of the the nominees for the county council on the Republican ticket to be chosen in the county convention Saturday, June 13, The News-Free Press learned today.

Selection of Robinson, who controls a large number of Negro votes, was seen today by political observers as an effort by Republican leaders to gain support among colored voters by offering him the county council nomination in return.

The fact Robinson recently supported the Democratic Party and now is offered a Republican nomination caused a flurry in political circles inasmuch as the newspaper manager would find it "exceedingly embarrassing" to accept the nomination, even if he wanted to.

Robinson today said he had not been informed of the nomination and "wouldn't consider it under any circumstances."

Others on the tentative list of nominees for the various county posts scheduled to be brought up in the convention include:

Sheriff: Ed Conner and Sam Cunningham, city fireman.

County court clerk: George Bean, Riverview druggist.

Circuit court clerk: P. R. Olgiati, superintendent of the department of parks and playgrounds, and well known Republican leader.

Chancery judge: James H. Anderson, former United States commissioner.

Circuit judge: Frank Todd Meacham, local attorney.

General sessions court: M. B. Harris, local attorney.

Justice of peace, Second District: Willard Millsaps, Central High School teacher, and Claude B. Burgess, railroad engineer.

County council: Martin L. Hartman, John K. Tate, former county sheriff: Col. Harold Weeks, staunch Republican, and Robinson.

Constable, First District: Tom Turner.

Constable, Second District: Murrell Phipps, former Hixson constable.

The name of Walter T. Wood, attorney, former court officer and well-known Republican, was not included in the tentative list of nominations. Mr. Wood is the only person who, so far, has publicly announced his intention of running for office on the Republican ticket.

The local Republican Party, it was learned, has recently split over the convention issue. One group pointed out in view of the strong Democratic organization here the Republicans stood little chance of getting a candidate elected in the August election and, as a result, the party could save time and money by eliminating the convention this year.

The other faction pointed out the convention should be held in an effort to hold the Republican Party together.

As a result of the powerful Couch organization here no one, except Mr. Wood, has chosen to oppose them on the G. O. P. slate.

NOT ANXIOUS

Observers say at least "two-thirds of those on the list", have no intention of accepting the nomination and that the names were "carefully chosen" by Republican committeemen to create further confusion within the G. O. P. ranks in the convention.

In event the majority of the nominees refuse to run for office when their names are presented to the convention, the Democratic Party will enter the August election virtually unopposed. Thus, the faction of the split party which objected to holding a convention and placing candidates in the election will have won their point.

Horace Humphreys, chairman of the local G. O. P. and influential in the naming of nominees, has objected to staging a convention this year, it was understood today.

MAY RESIGN

It was also pointed out that Mr. Humphreys, who has quarreled with some of the party leaders on the convention issues, may tender his resignation during the convention. He has served as chairman during the past four years.

Strength to the argument that the list of nominations is made up of men who will probably refuse to accept the nominations is offered by the fact it is generally known Mr. Olgiati will probably leave soon for service in the army.

The executive committee of the Republican Party will meet this Saturday to establish formally and set a date for the precinct primaries and county convention.

52a-1942
Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

TEXAS

Who Knows How Many Negroes Voted and How Many Poll Tax Receipts They Hold?

AUG 2 2 1942

W. R. (Bob) Morin, leader of the Anti-City Manager forces which suffered a defeat at the polls, last Saturday, went out of the way to comment in the Houston Press, by saying "Although Negro property owners hold 7000 poll taxes here, it appeared that only 300 or 400 voted in the City Manager election.

AUG 2 2 1942

We wonder how did Mr. Morin reach that conclusion. In the first place, it is hard to determine exactly how many Negroes paid their poll tax since the poll tax list compiled failed to designate accurately who was white and who was colored. A check of the poll tax list of the colored committee who attempted to classify Negroes by streets and personal acquaintences found that more than half of the Negroes who paid their poll tax were not designated as colored and fell in the class with the white voters. The committee also found that many persons holding poll tax receipts and exemptions could not be found on the list.

Now, as to how many Negroes voted was also difficult because white and colored voters alike were supposed to drop their votes in the same box. However, many Negroes complained that some of the judges took their ballots and did not place them in the box.

AUG 2 2 1942

One man charged that he, and his wife, who is very fair, went to the polls together to vote and that her ballot was placed in one box while his vote was placed in a separate box.

Negroes were placed at a disadvantage when the box was switched without notice from 3336 Sampson Street to 3353 Holman Street. Many persons who planned to vote early on their way to work could not do so.

Mr. Morin did not state in the article in the Press that all boxes where Negroes are supposed to vote in large numbers, went for the City Manager Plan. These were precints numbers 24, 25, 48, 30 and 85. Observers say that it has been a long time since Negroes showed so much interest and enthusiasm as was shown in the City Manager election. It is believed that the articles that ran in the daily papers about Negroes activities in the campaign, inspired a general vote.

AUG 2 2 1942

When the charter election was held four years ago, only about 18.000 votes were cast and the amendment was lost by 318 votes. Negroes took no active part in that election.

Citizens Draft Popular G. O. P. For Legislature From 37th District

By Citizens Committee

Born in Augusta, Georgia, June 28, 1900, son of the late Dr. John R. Harris, Sr., distinguished clergyman and educator of the south. Studied at Smith, Columbia and University of Washington. Holds College and Theological Degree. College activities were: football, baseball, track, basketball, Glee club, Y.M.C.A., and has worked as a printer, waiter, railroad porter, shipping clerk in publishing firm. Since 1930 he has been the minister of Grace Presbyterian Church, Seattle. He has served as moderator of his Presbytery (membership 28,000); President of N.A.A.C.P.; been active in politics and is now serving as President of the Urban League (community fund organization). Says he has faith in the people who have contributed to his experience. Rev. Harris resides at 807 21st Ave., Seattle.

"I expect to wage a clean aggressive campaign. I solicit the support of all citizens who reside in the 37th district. Make yourself a committee of one to see that every eligible voter is registered and see that absentee ballots are put into the hands of "shutins" and those who expect to be out of town on September 8th, such as railroad and ship employees, also service men.

The times in which we live demand that our state representatives are men with courage, integrity and ability. My contention is that people no longer want professional politicians to make their laws. Individuals who have dedicated their lives to the service of the people, who understand their domestic, social, labor, religious, educational and political problems, are in demand.

Our state will need such persons during war times and peace times. Washington state leads the nation in some phases of progressive legislation. These gains must be maintained at all costs. On the other hand, selfish interests have sought to nullify these gains by their poisonous infiltration into Government affairs. They constitute a threat not only to the security of the people of this state but would sabotage the national war effort to accomplish their selfish purpose. They must be crushed before they destroy us. Victory at home will help to win Victory abroad. My Victory will be your Victory."



J. Richmond Harris

FLASH!

The Harris for Representative non-partisan club held an enthusiastic meeting at Veterans Hall last night, after hearing the candidates platform the club, composed of members of all parties voted unanimously to work for the election as State Representative of Rev. J. Richmond Harris. Groups are being organized for the purpose of contacting every voter in the 37th District. The president of the club, Miss Sari Greene, the Secretary, Bernhard E. Squires.

Editor Candidate For Legislature

CHARLESTON, West Va.—(ANP)—E. L. Powell, one of the best known citizens of Charleston and Kanawha county, filed for the Democratic nomination for the West Virginia House of Delegates last week. His friends concede him a good chance of winning both the nomination and the election.

Mr. Powell is editor and owner of the West Virginia Digest and state manager for the Supreme Liberty Life Insurance Company.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Files For State Legislature In West Va. Primary

CHARLESTON, W. Va. —(ANP)—E. L. Powell, one of the best known citizens of Charleston and Kanawha County, filed for the Democratic nomination for the West Virginia House of Delegates last week. His friends concede him a good chance of winning both the nomination and the election.

Mr. Powell is editor and owner of the West Virginia Digest and state manager for the Supreme Liberty Life Insurance Company.

Negro Labor News

Houston, Texas

Negro Right to Vote to Be Defended in Texas

OCT 31 1942 OCT 31 1942 OCT 31 1942

The right of the Texas Democratic party to deprive Negroes of the vote by exclusion from primaries will be challenged November 10th in the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals when Dr. L. E. Smith, a Negro voter, appeals the decision handed down last June by the U. S. District Court here.

Counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will argue the case. The American Civil Liberties Union and the National Lawyers Guild will file briefs in behalf of the voters.

CLASSIC CASE RECALLED

The appeal will be taken on the lower court's refusal to follow the decision of the U. S. Supreme Court in the recent "Classic" case arising in Louisiana, which held that interference with the right to vote in the congressional primaries "is in fact an interference with the effective choice of voters at the only stage of the election procedure where their choice is of significance."

In refusing to follow this ruling the District Court held that while it might be effective in Louisiana where the primary is an actual part of the election procedure, it did not apply in Texas where the primary is the private affair of the Democratic party, financed exclusively by party funds.

The U. S. Supreme Court had prior to the Classic case sustained the right of a party to control its own primaries and to exclude Negroes from voting.

VIOLATES AMENDMENTS

In answer the appeal will argue that the primary procedure is controlled by statute and that regardless of finance it is part of the legal election procedure. Exclusion of Negroes solely because of race constitutes, therefore, a violation of the 14th, 15th and 17th Amendment.

Furthermore the dominance of the Democratic party in Texas makes the primaries in effect the elections. Since 1859 Democratic nominees have been elected in all major elections with two exceptions.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
September 19, 1942

NEGRO VOTE FIGHT TAKEN TO COURTS

Participation in Democratic Primary is Objective of Committee Action

Columbia, Sept. 18.—(AP): The negro citizens' committee of South Carolina decided today to apply to the courts in an effort to obtain negro participation in state Democratic primary elections, Secretary James N. Hinton, of the committee, said.

"We decided to take this action since there seemed no other relief in sight . . . than that provided by the constitution . . .

"Since last April we have been petitioning and pleading with Democratic organizations to allow negroes to participate in the Democratic primaries, as results of primaries in this state are tantamount to election.

"But we were turned down in every instance and there seems no other relief than through court action."

A group of white persons, principally Columbians, unsuccessfully attempted to bring negro participation in primary voting before the state Democratic convention in June.

E. A. Adams, of Columbia, chairman, presided at the committee meeting, which was attended by forty-two members, Hinton said.

52b-1942
Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Bureau Of Negro Affairs Proposal Is Turned Down

Charge Suggested Organization Would Overlap Functions Of Already Existing Agencies

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—A proposal to establish a "bureau of Negro affairs" to coordinate all federal activities concerning the race was voted down Friday by those who were expected to head it. The four officials, three white and one colored, were understood to have been Jonathan Daniels of OCD, Lawrence Cramer of CoFEP, Harold B. Hoskins, executive assistant to the assistant secretary of state, and U. S. Minister to Liberia Lester A. Walton.

The proposal, brainchild of a ranking Negro government official, was vetoed because there are at present too many bureaus working on "problems" and the functions of the new group are now being handled by other setups.

OUTLINE DUTIES

Under the date of April 29, a communication was forwarded to a high ranking official af the state department, who is very close to the President and generally credited with being the "brains" of many new movements initiated through the White House.

The letter said in part:

"Some of the body's duties would be:

"1. To bring about a betterment of public relations by giving greater emphasis in Negro press and on the screen (particularly in motion picture houses largely patronized by Negroes) definite gains being made by the race in the army, the various branches of the government and in industry. This is a picture age and the Negro is stimulated as other racial groups when stories are told in pictures in newspapers and on the screen regarding racial participation in the armed services and in war production work.

WOULD 'COVER' TROOPS

"2. The body should take the initiative in bringing about the selection of capable, responsible colored newspaper men to accompany colored troops abroad whose reports would be released by the body or some other agency. Negro morale, both on the battlefield and at home, will be the winner.

"3. To awaken interest among the women and girls of the race in raising funds to purchase cigarets, etc., for colored troops.

"4. To correlate the worthwhile achievements of the various agencies thereby enabling the administration to have at hand valuable information on advantages gained by the Negro through the federal government since Americians entered into the war.

"5. To make contacts with the Federal Council of Churches (interracial department); colored Y. W. C. A.; fraternal and other organizations with a view of arranging for programs calculate to improve morale.

"6. To function as interprete of the coordinating agencies' objectives.

7. To secure wider recognition for the Negro in the news and editorial columns of the daily press and in other publications."

FAIL TO MENTION BONDS

In the seven points enumerated, it was poinpted out that no mention at all was made of any method of stimulating Negroes to buy war stamps, bonds and such, although this is a prime movement during the war effort and one which needs a tontinual lashing to put over. How this was omitted as one of the functions of the proposed super bureau is one of the reasons for its general disapproval.

In another portion of the letter, the criticism levelled was that many of the agencies are doing fine jobs but find their duties overlapping. "Moreover, each agency is seeking to ameliorate conditions according to its own particular point of view, and does not visualize the picture as a whole," it said.

Also discussed was the failure to consider Negroes in the basic discussions which result in the establishment of new units, organizations and governmental departments. Jim crowing of soldiers' wives and relatives and the attitude of the Negro press in general were also given attention to the recommendation.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Walton Explains Agency Proposal

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—A desire to focus special federal attention on Negro problems instead of having them considered with problems of foreign nationality was back of his suggestion for a bureau of Negro affairs, it was revealed here this week by Lester A. Walton, U. S. Minister to Liberia, who is now in the United States.

His statement follows:

"For sometime the Inter-Departmental Committee for Foreign Nationality has been meeting weekly in Washington to discuss ways and means to promote better relations not only between white and colored Americans but between all racial groups living in the United States. As the American Negro is as native as chicken Maryland style, I raised the point that it appeared to me incongruous to consider Negro problems along with problems of foreign nationality. It was pointed out that some of the discriminatory practices to which the Negro was being subjected are not unlike these to which other groups are being subjected.

'I was asked to meet and discuss racial discriminations with various members of the committee from time to time. While those with whom I conferred were devoting no little time and attention to fighting discrimination it occurred to me that the movement could be accelerated by my meeting with the members at one time instead of individually. In a letter to Adolf A. Berle, assistant secretary of state, I suggested that such a step be taken with a view to formulating a program which would insure a square deal for the Negro, particularly in the armed services, in industry and on trains and buses.

"All on the committee have jobs and I have no desire to accept one carrying less prestige and calling for a salary decrease. After the permanent agency had been set up my active interest would cease.

"Moreover, the question of recommending the consolidation of any of the alphabetical agencies was farthest from our minds. We are fully aware that Mr. McNutt and others are clothed with authority to do this. Our aim is the functioning of a federal agency which can initiate, facilitate and conciliate in matters affecting interracial relations. To me, what the agency is named is an academic question. It reminds me of the controversy over whether we shall be called Negroes, colored or Afro-Americans. We are being disdriminated against irrespective of racial appellation. My chief concern is to see that the Negro is accorded his full rights as provided by the constitution.

"I wish to make it known that I am carrying out the wishes of responsible authority in conferring with members of the committee."

WHY NOT A NEGRO?

Why should not President Roosevelt appoint a Negro to the Supreme Court of the United States to fill the vacancy made by the retirement of Justice Byrnes? The Jewish race is just about one-thirtieth of our population and yet they have been well represented in the Supreme Court. The Negro race is one-thirteenth of our population, and their lives, their sacrifices and their blood are mingled with the very fibers of the country, why should not a Negro be added to make one-ninth of the strength of the Supreme Court of the United States that rules upon the destiny of Negroes, which is one-tenth of the population? Nothing would give greater earnest of American democracy than the appointment of a Negro to the vacancy on the Supreme Court bench. Negroes should ask for it by writing the President, the Congressmen and Senators, not only from Texas but from other states.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Indian Leaders Planning For Pan-Asian Federation

Nehru Outlines Post-War Plan and Says Indians Not Convinced this Is their War—Gandhi to Lead Anti-British Movement.

By Our London Correspondent

LONDON (Censored), July 2—Now that Indian leaders have let it be known that the only condition for support of the war is complete freedom now, plans for the post-war federation of India and China and the neighboring Moslem States of Afghanistan and Persia, have been drawn up by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

According to reports reaching London, Nehru declared that he would fight the British plan of Pakistan, which seeks to partition India into Hindu and Moslem States, and destroy the unity of India along the lines of Ireland, where the people are more disunited than ever before.

"If the majority of people of any particular territorial unit of India want to separate from the rest of the country, that unit cannot be held by force," Nehru added. "But it must be the people's free choice and not imposed upon them from outside in the interest of the imperialist policy of 'divide and rule'."

PEACEFUL SEPARATION

Clarifying this statement, Nehru said: "When I think of any particular Indian province which wants to separate from the rest of India, I have in mind the peaceful separation of Norway from Sweden, the most peaceful separation in history.

"In spite of my grave differences with the British Government, I am not unmindful of what is happening in Russia and China, and I have every sympathy with those two great countries.

"I would like to give every help to China, but I have no power to do so. I feel helpless.

"If Indians could be convinced that this is their war and that it is a war for the freedom of their country, they could, like the Russians, Chinese and Americans put their full weight in the cause of democracy."

GANDHI TO LEAD MOVEMENT

The political situation in India is becoming more and more confused by the action of Mahatma Gandhi, who has announced that he will take over the leadership of the nationalist movement. His program, despite the Japanese menace, will be anti-British. He will suggest that recent events in the Far East demonstrate that the British cannot hold India without the support of the native population. So his slogan will be Britain must quit India now. If Britain quit, he argues, the Japanese would no longer be tempted to invade the country.

A special committee meeting will be called to hear his plans for taking advantage of the present war situation.

In the meanwhile, General Wavell is busy preparing to defend the country should the Japanese launch an attack upon Calcutta and the province of Benegal.

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

NAACP Joins Tribune in Opposing Super Bureau

"The Board of Directors questions the wisdom of the establishment of any bureau as a catch-all for the problems of the Negro in industry, government, the armed forces, and in American life generally," President Roosevelt was informed in a letter from the N.A.A.C.P. June 11. The N.A.A.C.P. said a "catch-all bureau would tend to make the Negro a ward of the government, similar to the status of the Indian under the Indeau Bureau of the Department of Interior.

Voting at its June 8 meeting to oppose the establishment of a proposed Bureau of Negro Affairs by the government to handle all problems of the Negro, the N.A.A.C.P. board said it is certain the sponsors of the proposal are sincere, but that it does not believe the plan is workable. Government machinery is already so complex that no single agency could keep abreast of all the procedures and policies of all its branches, much less act upon them promptly and vigorously, the N.A.A.C.P. declared.

"The most logical and democratic procedure," the President was told, "is courageous progress toward the integration of the Negro on the basis of ability into all branches of American government and life." The N.A.A.C.P. said an immediate step in that direction would be the appointment of a qualified Negro as assistant to the President . . . not as "Negro assistant," but as full assistant, whose Negro race is incidental.

Such a bureau was recently proposed to the State Department by Walton, of New York. He also suggested that he be named a member of this super board with three white men. The Tribune "broke" the story several weeks ago and published Walton's letter in full opposing the plan.

52b-1942
Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

The Voice Selects As The Most Important Question of the Week:

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Is Gandhi justified in asking the British and the Americans to withdraw from Indian soil?

Pro:

Anup Singh, PhD
Author, "Nehru, Rising Star of India," editor, "India Today,"

Gandhi would have British and American troops stay, but only as the comrades in arms of free India. Gandhi's demand that foreign troops withdraw from India is born of indignation over the humiliation heaped upon India since the outbreak of the war. Defying Gandhi's warning of years that India must be consulted, Britain dragged her into war arbitrarily. Today, again without consulting anyone in India, troops are brought from abroad. Gandhi's moral challenge that Britain's claim to be fighting for freedom and democracy must be vindicated in India, has yet to be answered. If Britain were to loosen her strangle hold on India, she could galvanize India's multitudes over night, and could make this a people's war in India. There would then be no need for foreign troops. They are there because Britain has never trusted India with her own defense. Gandhi is now exhorting his followers to put up the only kind of resistance that is left to India's disarmed millions—to die on the spot rather than be driven by the invaders to work for them as prostrate millions in Europe are working for hitler today. Violent resistance, under the circumstances, would be an invitation to mass murder. Protest against foreign troops is Gandhi's reminder to the world that, in this day of "four freedoms," India's soil is being violated.



Ed Note: Sunday, July 12, Dr. Singh will make a radio address (WQXR—6:30 pm) on *The Next Move in Asia.*

Con:

Ferdinand C. Smith
National Secretary, National Maritime Union

No. British and American armed forces must be permitted to remain on Indian soil so that their high military skill and training in modern warfare may be utilized in the defense of India and the principles which she has espoused. It must be clear to us all that not only principles, but liberties and lives would face ruthless destruction in the event of a hitler victory. This is not to deny that the harmony between the Indian people and the allied nations, so essential to assure United Nations' victory, can be achieved by an immediate recognition by the British government of the natural aspirations of the Indian people to the extent that they shall be permitted direct and equal footing in their participation in the world-wide war effort. It must be admitted that the present situation has been brought about by the failure of the British government to recognize the just demands of the Indian people for full equality and self-rule—a desire which is uppermost in the hearts of all peoples, but the alternative at present, is not to expose India to domination to the axis, which has and does denounce democracy in theory and practice. The British people accept the principles of democracy and admit the justice of India's claim for freedom. Their demands are taking precedence over those of outmoded imperialists, and our nation and Russia see eye to eye with the people.



Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Gandhi Advised To Shun Politics For Two Weeks

WARDHA, INDIA, July 8.—(U.P.)—Mohandas K. Gandhi, frail 72-year-old spiritual leader of Indian Nationalism today was ordered by his personal physician and specialists to forget his "Quit India Movement" against Britain and to rest in the mountains for at least two weeks.

He felt extremely weak on waking yesterday morning after a sudden rise of blood pressure the previous night while outlining the plans for his movement to members of the All-India Congress party's working committee. His followers immediately summoned the specialists from Bombay by telephone.

After examining him today, they said Gandhi was suffering from too much work and exhaustion. They told him to get out of the heat of the Wardha region and to do nothing but rest.

Quarters close to Gandhi intimated, however, that he had not yet promised to follow their recommendations and that he would struggle against postponement, even for a few weeks, of his deliberations with Congress leaders on his projected movement to make the British surrender power in India.

Even though weak yesterday, he received the working committee in his bare hut at Sevagram, outside Wardha, and pleaded with its members for roughly two hours to take a definite stand and launch a mighty campaign—without resort to violence—to free India and make her influence felt in the worldwide war.

(The Berlin radio, quoting a dispatch from Bangkok, Thailand, said that the Congress committee met in Wardha Wednesday morning and intended to confer with Gandhi again in the afternoon.)

Maulana Abdulkalam Azad, Moslem president of the Congress party, told newspapermen after the meeting that he could not indicate the nature of the discussions or their final outcome.

Informed sources said, however, that Gandhi emphasized that the time had come for the party to assert itself and justify its claim to national leadership. It must vindicate the stand it took in the April negotiations with Sir Stafford Cripps, British Lord Privy Seal, on the question of India's political demands, he said, and it must also play a part in the international situation.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

MR. GANDHI WELCOMES OUR SOLDIERS.

Mr. Gandhi seems to have changed his mind about the presence of American soldiers in India. At first he was displeased and intimated it would be nice if they'd go home. Now he says in his newspaper that he is willing to have them defend India if they will pay their own expenses and clear out promptly when the war is over.

It doesn't appear that Mr. Gandhi has much to worry about on either score. The record of American military activity overseas suggests that we do not drive hard bargains and it isn't likely that, once the Japanese have been licked, we shall keep a garrison in India. If all that stands between India and independence is the United States, Mr. Gandhi can regard his life's work as approaching a successful completion.

Of course there are some Americans whose loyalty to the British empire is so intense that they would wish our country to police India for Britain, but such Americans are a small minority. Most of the citizens of this country have read the Declaration of Independence and approve the sentiments there expressed. To Americans, the ambition of the Indian people for independence seems a natural one, like the ambition of the Filipino people and of the American colonists before them. We are the last nation in the world to insist that the Indians must accept an alien government.

It is just possible that Mr. Gandhi knows or suspects all this. If he were an occidental, his motives would be easily guessed. He wants to have his country defended as effectively as may be and at as little cost as possible to India and the Indians. He is quite willing to allow Americans to participate because he suspects that when the war is over they might encourage the British to take a more friendly attitude toward Indian aspirations than the British have shown in the past.

But Mr. Gandhi is not an occidental. He doesn't even wear pants. In the circumstances it is hardly worth while asking him why it is right for Americans to fight to defend India and wrong for Indians to use force to defend their own country. If he offered an explanation, we probably couldn't understand it.

52b-1942
Southern News
Almanac
Birmingham, Ala.

Ga. Solons Aim Bill At Tenants

MAR 6 1941

MAR 6 1941

ATLANTA, Ga.—A bill to permit landlords to dispossess farm workers and tenants without the necessity of court action was passed by the overwhelming vote of 104 to 3 in the lower house of the Georgia general assembly this week. The bill was introduced and pushed through by Black Belt and DeKalb county planters.

Under the terms of the bill, the farm worker or sharecropper does not even have recourse to equity. The landlord is set up as sole judge, jury and prosecutor, to decide whether the sharecropper or tenant has complied with his contract. The bill now goes before the state senate.

On Thursday the general assembly, in joint session, was addressed by Rev. J. Frank Norris of Fort Worth, Texas, at the suggestion of Gov. Gene Talmadge. Norris, a close associate of the fascist Gerald K. Smith and Father Coughlin, is known for his vicious attacks on labor unions, especially the CIO. During recent years he has worked with Homer Martin and Henry Ford to block the organization trends among the automobile workers.

In the South, Norris is remembered especially for his shooting, in his church study, of a man who claimed that Norris had wronged his wife. Norris was acquitted on a plea of self defense. Under the auspices of Talmadge, Norris is opening a series of "old time revivals" throughout the state which have as their main purpose spreading propaganda against trade unions.

In this atmosphere it is not surprising that the state senate passed, 35 to 11, the bill of Senator H. B. ("Hell Bent") Edwards to prohibit closed shop activities of all labor unions on "emergency" public projects for "national defense."

The bill, as it went to the house, would make it unlawful for labor organizations to "request, demand, or otherwise seek" dues and initiations from workers on the so-called defense projects. Membership in a union could not be required of project workers. Union books would be subject to state inspection. Violators of the law involves imprisonment up to three years.

While Senator Edwards and Gov. Talmadge claim the law is directed only against racketeering elements in the A. F. of L. building trades, CIO and AFL men alike charge that behind the bill is the plot of Georgia finance and industry to crush the whole Georgia labor movement.

In the words of one senator, the Edwards bill is "a yellow dog contract gone mad." In defending labor unions, an opposition senator pointed out that the bill would rescind all gains by which "the working man has come from servitude to a place of respect because of the protection of the unions."

Both CIO and AFL unions have been active at the capitol in an effort to defeat this legislation.

Both the Senate and House bills to remove back poll taxes and to eliminate all future poll taxes as requirements to voting, are in committees waiting for action there. Their places on the calendars of the senate and house have not yet been announced. Only eighteen more working days are left of this regular session in which they may be considered. They will be extremely fortunate if they survive the congested calendar that is being remade Wednesday and Thursday.

Much secrecy surrounds the probable course of these measures. No one is permitted to question a legislator or make him answer to the public because of his legislative immunity. Newspapers can only quote his remarks from the floor.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

Farmers Union Asks Poll Tax Abolition

JAN 11 1942

SHEFFIELD, Ala.—(AP)—The Southern Tenant Farmers Union (AFL) Saturday demanded the abolition of the poll tax as a prerequisite to voting and charged it "is mainly responsible for the reactionary character of many representatives of the South."

The union took the action in a resolution adopted at its closing convention session and declared that in eight Southern states payment of the tax is necessary before voting.

JAN 11 1942

The group elected Roy Raley, of Sheffield, new president of the union, succeeding J. R. Butler, of Memphis. F. R. Benton, of Fort Smith, Ark., was named vice president and H. L. Mitchell, of Little Rock, Ark., reelected secretary.

Another resolution adopted by the union urged that the farm mortgage act of 1918 be amended to provide a 5 per cent down payment and 5 per cent payments over a 20-year period for purchase of land through federal land banks.

Under the present rule, a 25 per cent down payment is necessary and the resolution declared that because of it many farmers can not take part in the program.

The convention also asked that all AFL members purchase defense stamps with "each surplus dime."

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Bibb Graves, Ex-Alabama Governor, Dies

MAR 15 1942

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Sarasota, Fla., March 14.—David Bibb Graves, 68, former Governor of Alabama, who was preparing next week to open a campaign for a third term, died early today.

Graves, whose home was in Montgomery, Alabama's capital, had been in Florida, convalescing, since undergoing a series of operations at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore.

Graves was a one time Ku Klux Klansman who turned against the Klan and became one of the most popular Governors his State ever had.

No Governor before him ever served two full four-year terms, but he held office from 1927 to 1931 and again from 1935 to 1939. Alabama's constitution forbids a Governor from succeeding himself.

In 1937, after the appointment of Senator Hugo Black, of Alabama, to the Supreme Court of the United States, Gov. Graves named his wife, Mrs. Dixie Bibb Graves, to succeed Black temporarily in the Senate. She served a few months and resigned early in 1938, whereupon her husband appointed Lister Hill as Senator.

MAR 15 1942

Graves during his term as Governor figured prominently in the national furore over the cases of the nine "Scottsboro boys," Negro defendants convicted of ravishing two white women in 1931 on what many asserted as perjured evidence.

After court fights reaching to the Supreme Court, four of the defendants were freed and all the death sentences originally imposed were wiped out and commuted to prison terms except that against Clarence Norris. On July 5, 1938, Graves erased the death penalty from the entire record, commuting Norris' sentence to life imprisonment.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Alabama Governor-Elect Pledges Justice To All During His Ter

OCT 13 1942

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—"To the extent of my authority, I am going to see that everybody gets justice during my administration," said Governor-Nominate Chauncy Sparks to a delegation of Negro leaders here Friday afternoon.

A delegation of eight talked with the governor-designate for about an hour and a half at his conference headquarters at the Greystone Hotel. Suffrage, education, health, civic liberties and general welfare were topics discussed.

OCT 13 1942

In the delegation were Attorney Arthur D. Shores, spokesman; Emory O. Jackson, secretary; Dr. E. W. Taggart, J. J. Green, president of the Birmingham Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; W. H. Hollins, W. E. Shortridge, all of Birmingham, and E. G. Jackson editor of the Alabama Tribune, Rich Harris and T. T. Allen, president of the Montgomery Branch of the NAACP, all three of Montgomery.

Mr. Sparks told the group that he was (1) going to be governor of all the people; (2) believed that the Negro in Alabama had a right to demand justice; and (3) that he was in in sympathy with the struggle of the Negro and would try to do something about bettering Negro conditions.

OCT 13 1942

In going over some of the things that had been running through his mind, Mr. Sparks said that he believed that much could be done towards the friendly settlement of the problems that confronted white and Negro people by the intelligent representatives, such as he and the Negro delegation, of both groups sitting down and planning together. He said that he had in mind a 10-year educational plan but doubted if enough money could be found during the war to finance it. He said that he favored the idea of a regional university as an immediate part of a long time program to comply with the "Gaines Case Decision," with the view that eventually the state would be able to build her own university for Negro people. He told the delegation that he favored more trade education for both Negro and white. He revealed no interest in the question put to him, about establishing a lawschool, and similar professions in comparatively new fields.

Mr. Sparks made notes on the presentation of "sore spots" on common carriers, discrimination by boards of education against graduates of the State Teachers' College and the organization of a department of Negro welfare.

Firmly, Mr. Sparks said that he believed in the riigid preservation of the tradition of independent development of the two races along segregated lines, and that there must be no "social equality." Otherwise he pointed out that a program could be worked out that would give both races an equal opportunity to live and make a living.

OCT 13 1942

The delegation and Mr. Sparks exchanged many views, differing at times, but talking facts.

The committee urged Mr. Sparks to use his influence in trying to get Boards of Registrars who will apply the law fairly to all applicants. He met the plea with humor. and questioned the authenticity of some of the experiences related.

Mr. Sparks said that as long as he is governor that all groups can bring their problems to him. He said that his office will always be to hear those with problems sent.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

GOV. DIXON CITED FOR FINE SERVICE

OCT 21 1942

Alabama C. Of C. Says Administration Has Been Success

OCT 21 1942

Following the passage of a resolution during its annual meeting here last week, the Alabama State Chamber of Commerce has issued to Gov. Frank M. Dixon a citation for his "distinguished service to the people of Alabama during his term as governor, and for his wise administration of business and affairs of the state."

The citation was signed by W. A. Steadman, president of the chamber, and John Ward, secretary. A part of it follows:

"Alabama State Chamber of Commerce in this its annual meeting at Birmingham, Oct. 15, 1942, desires to express its appreciation and obligation to the Hon. Frank M. Dixon, governor of Alabama, who has honored its members by his presence at this meeting.

"For nearly four years he has guided our state under difficult and rapidly changing conditions. History will record that during his administration the art of government has been advanced in many important respects, such as the revolutionary change in the system dealing with pardon, parole and probation; the introduction of the merit system in public employment and the creation of a personnel department; the consolidation and elimination of various bureaus and boards; the teachers' retirement fund has become an actuality during his administration; a road building program has been carried out which compares most favorably with that of any other state in the union; Alabama's beauties and advantages have been made known to the outside world through carefully planned advertising and publicity; state forests and parks have been developed and safeguarded and through his active efforts experience rating has been made the basis on which payments are made under the Alabama unemployment compensation.

"He has fostered and encouraged improved facilities for education of all our people from grammar schools through and including the colleges of higher education.

"He has instituted a systematic retirement of the state debt which our people began to incur more than 100 years ago.

"He has whenever occasion arose made vigorous defense of the integrity and dignity of the state as an entity within the Federal Union.

"He has cooperated fully in the war effort.

"Gov. Dixon was leader in the successful effort before the House ways and means committee of the Congress in February, 1942, against the federalization of unemployment compensation, and for his dynamic leadership was commended by the governors of both parties throughout the nation. He is now chairman of the Southern Governors' Conference and has served as a member of the executive committee of the National Governors' Conference."

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

'To Give Everyone Fair Play'

OCT 16 1942

Says He Will Be Governor of All the People

OCT 16 1942

MONTGOMERY, Ala. —(ANP)—"To the extent of my authority, I am going to see that everybody gets justice during my administration," said Governor-Nominate Chauncey Sparks to a delegation of Negro leaders here Friday afternoon.

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OCT 16 1942

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OCT 16 1942

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OCT 16 1942

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Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, PA.

INTERVIEW ALABAMA GOVERNOR

OCT 24 1942



After a conference with the delegation above concerning suffrage, education, health, civil liberties, and the general welfare, Governor-elect Chauncey Sparks of Alabama stated from his headquarters in the Greystone hotel, Montgomery, Ala., that he considered the Negro an asset to the State of Alabama, and that while he was governor he would see that Negro citizens were accorded equal justice.

Front row, left to right: Emory O. Jackson, executive editor of the Birmingham World; Atty. Arthur D. Shores and W. E. Shortridge, mortician.

Back row: W. H. Hollins, real estate broker; Dr. E. W. Taggart, dentist; J. J. Green, president of the Birmingham branch of the NAACP.

52c-1942
Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

CALIFORNIA

RACE JURIST SWEARS IN CIVIC DEFENDERS

LOS ANGELES, 1942 18—Approximately 1100 Civilian Defense enrolees including 750 Air Raid Wardens, 250 Auxiliary Police and 100 Fire Watchers were officially inducted into the Civilian Defense organization on last Friday evening at Jefferson high school.

Captain Charles R. Mesloh of Newton Division was master of ceremonies and introduced the staff of Newton Division War Activities which included Lieut. Roscoe C. Washington, Sergeant Earl B. Sansing and Officer Ernest A. Hannibal. Mayor Fletcher Bowron was the first speaker presented and welcomed the enrolees and praised them for their outstanding work in Newton Division.

Other speakers included George Hjelte, Director of Civilian Defense; Deputy Chief Ross R. McDonald, Director of War Activities in the Los Angeles Police Department and Judge Edwin L. Jefferson who administered the oath to the members of the Office of Civilian Defense. Most of the Auxiliary police, Air Raid Wardens and Fire Watchers were equipped with the newest gas masks.

Music for the occasion was furnished by the Police Post Band of the American Legion.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

The Nation's Capital

By Insider

FEB 7, 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C.—A new race Representative will come to Congress next year. Congressman ~~Arthur W.~~ Mitchell, (Dem.), Illinois, has declined at the last minute to stand for re-election. Former Congressman DePriest, also, out of the running on account of illness. At last William L. Dawson's chance has come.



Rep. Mitchell

Congressman Oscar DePriest, a militant, but partisan old line Republican, served nobly as the first of his race to sit in the greatest law making assembly in Washington from the North, a worthy successor of his twenty odd colored predecessors of Reconstruction Days. Had he possessed the vision and statesmanship of a LaFollette, a Norris or a LaGuardia, he would still be our Congressman, popular and beloved by his constituents in Mississippi as well as Illinois, and feared by lesser patriots among his peers. He, also, missed the vote on the Tinkham Force bill to get the South straight, but lived it down.

Swamped by Avalanche FEB 7, 1942

The record will show Congressman DePriest, though a member of the G. O. P. minority in his third term was still so effective in 1933, despite the avalanche of Roosevelt MUST legislation, to succeed in amending the CCC law. Taking the floor with one of his fiery speeches, he stopped everything until enough votes were won over to have an effective an wise prohibition against discrimination in its benefits on account of race, creed or color in its administration, accepted by the Congressman Robert Ramspeck, (Dem.), Georgia, sponsor of the CCC bill and a member of the House Majority Labor Committee.



Mr. Dawson

As long as the nation endures the precedent of this self-educated legislator, will be the time proven example of how to do it. During the past decade military, National Defense and Civil Service laws have been likewise amended to protect the interests and welfare of 12,000,000 colored people in the United States.

Oscar DePriest served his day and generation with great honor and distinction. No American was more manly and forthright in championing the cause of true democracy and constitutional government in all places, at all times.

He refused to compromise right. FEB 7, 1942

Arthur Mitchell Makes Name as Statesman

Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell, the first Negro ever elected as a Democrat to the House of Representatives, is a lawyer, a devout follower of the greatest race strategist of all times, Dr. Booker T. Washington. As a Democrat he was cast in a difficult role. No man has been more constantly under the lash of criticism from the Negro press and national colored organizations. He has beaten the "rap" on every count. Colored people generally have failed to understand or to be sympathetic with the problem involved and its masterful handling by him. It will be some time before his own race will have a proper conception of his incomparable contribution to the public service and racial betterment. This distinguished Negro member of Congress is perhaps the smartest realist and race statesman of the past decade.



Mr. DePriest

At the half-way mark of his fourth consecutive term, having weathered all the ups and downs and vicissitudes of politics, going stronger than ever, and with colors flying, he turns down the fifth proffered nomination of his party by Hon. P. A. Nash, chairman of the Cook County Democratic Party of Illinois. He has played the game with such personal aloftness and magnitude, as to confound his enemies and to baffle even his well wishers. His character, public life and race integrity is unimpeachable. Where others have failed, he steps over from the well of the House to the sacred precincts of the Supreme Court to argue his own case and win the most notable decision since Dred Scott, guaranteeing and protecting the traveling public in every section of the land from sleepless nights on trains and hot dog lunches en route. FEB 7 1942

Only this week a fellow Alabaman wrote Congressman Mitchell with gratitude to inform him he had gone into the diner at the first call. This colored passenger ate lunch on the Southern Railroad between Birmingham and Montgomery, the old capital of the Confederacy, though a screen separated him from the other diners.

While the Congressman has not yet successfully challenged the failure to "cut" down the number of members of the House of Representatives from states of the South, which disfranchise Negroes generally, nor passed an anti-lynching bill, he contended mightily for justice to the race in a debate on the floor of Congress only last week against Rankin, the intolerant of Mississippi, and his eternal white supremacy din.

Mitchell Puts Democrats on the Spot

Few people know Congressman Mitchell was approached by a Jew of Chicago, the ranking member of Congress, who urged him not to attend the first Jackson Day dinner in 1934 at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington. He paid his $50 as all other Congressmen who were invited, and though the National Democratic Committee held up his ticket looking around for an excuse to renege, Congressman Mitchell demanded the ticket he had paid to receive and attended the banquet. He, also, eats in the Capital restaurant from which Congressman DePriest's secretary was barred. Mr. Mitchell's secretary does not eat there, either, nor any other Negro not in company with a Congressman. Others of the general public have full access to the service. It should not be so and Congressman John Cochran, (Dem.), Missouri, who succeeded Congressman Linsay Warren, (N. C.) now U. S. Controller General, should be made to do something about this discrimination solely against colored people on account of race prejudice in the Capital dining room. FEB 7 1942

Congressman Mitchell in 1940 refused to make a speech in "bleeding" Kansas and flew back to Chicago after learning on arrival that his colleague, who had sent for him in order to aid his re-election, had failed to provide accommodations for him at the leading hotel of Topeka and his friends there said they could do nothing about it in his absence.

Congressman Mitchell still has a year to serve as a member of the House of Representatives. Visitors to the capital cannot help but be impressed with his own conviction as to best way to secure justice in a broader degree for the Negro people. This forthright champion will be found on the alert, contending to relieve the burdens of his people in Congress or out as he sees it. In the ceaseless fight he will be in there, with everything which a fruitful life has endowed him. Nothing will he fail to put on the altar of the still uncharted areas of racial progress, enfranchisement and security.

Hail to a great race benefactor and statesman. He is leaving Congress like George Washington for his palatial home in Virginia, built last year at a cost of $35,000 and located in the 4th District of the state, once represented in Congress by the famed Negro scholar, gentleman and statesman, the Hon. John Mercer Langston. He was the first president of Virginia Normal and Collegiate School at Petersburg and Minister to Haiti. This district with a population (1940) of 203,000, of whom 103,000 are colored people, outnumbering the other race by some 3,000, has been represented in Congress by the Hon. Patrick Henry Drewry, for the past 22 years.

There are three counties in this district where the white population is 4,021, Negro 8,364; white 6,448, Negro 11,718; white 5,953, Negro 8,913. The largest county has white 15,611, Negro 16,309. Total population, white 100,945, Negro 103,702.

Congressman Mitchell still seems to have some advanced ideas—may God grant him many more years on the firing line.

The country may still be hearing great and unprecedented things politically from him for a long time.

MITCHELL TO GIVE LECTURE SERIES IN WESTERN CITIES

Nashville Globe
Nashville, Tenn.
Dec. 4, 1942

Congressman Will Be Banquet Guest At University Of California

Washington, Dec. 3 (ANP)—Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell left Washington last week on a special trip to the Pacific coast to deliver several important addresses. Wednesday he was to deliver a special address to the students and faculty of the University of California, with a banquet given in his honor by a group of distinguished professors of that school and citizens of Los Angeles and Hollywood. Friday he will address the Commonwealth club in the Gold Room of the Palace hotel in San Francisco.

This is one of the most exclusive clubs in the United States, with a membership of more than 5,000 which has been addressed by every president since McKinley.

The congressman will also speak at the University of Redlands, Cal., and to the inter-racial group at San Diego and will review the 10th Cavalry stationed at Camp Lockett on the Mexican border. One of the high points on the itinerary will be his appearance as guest of honor and principal speaker before the Phi Beta Kappa group in Los Angeles. He also plans to stop over at several important points on his return trip from the west, and to deliver special addresses. Mitchell intends to return to Washington about the middle of December and to deliver his farewell address to congress, after which he will retire to his estate in Virginia.

The Horizon

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.
FEB 14 1942

RACE IS NEARLY UNANIMOUS IN APPROVAL OF MITCHELL'S DECISION NOT TO RUN AGAIN

BY P. L. PRATTIS

WHEN Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell chose not to run again as a candidate from the First district of Illinois, he undoubtedly won the near unanimous commendation of thirteen million colored Americans. By this one act of renunciation, Mr. Mitchell endeared himself to his people more than he has been able to do through all his actions in all the years he has been in Congress.

I confess I do not know what the complete record will show in regard to Mr. Mitchell. Only this much is certain: that he has been persona non grata to the most vocal and most literate Negroes since shortly after he assumed office. Fate was partly to blame, but Mr. Mitchell himself, I believe, must bear the greater blame. All Fate did was to send him to Washington in the wake of such a colorful, astute and commanding character as Oscar DePriest. Almost anyone elected to succeed Mr. DePriest would have suffered this handicap. Some men would have disposed of it. Mr. Mitchell didn't. Instead, Mr. Mitchell added to the handicap by deciding to have his own way about the people's business.



Mr. Prattis

HAS BEEN COURAGEOUS

FEB 14 1942

IN any proper assay of the record and character of Mr. Mitchell since he has been in Congress, it would be a mistake to assume, or to charge, that he has not been courageous, that he has not been intelligent, according to his own light, or that he has knowingly sold the race out. Mr. Mitchell has both physical and moral courage. He has brains. And he thinks too much of himself to sell the race out if he knew it.

I think Mr. Mitchell's chief fault, a fault which spoiled an unusual opportunity in Congress to add to his own stature and to the prestige of the race, has been his unconscionable stubbornness, backed by narrow-mindedness. I don't think there has ever been an instant when Arthur Mitchell did not know exactly what he wanted to do in respect to the affairs of the race and his district and was not convinced that he was absolutely right. There is a common term for such an attitude. The term is bullheadedness.

CONTEMPTUOUS OF CRITICS

FEB 14 1942

MR. MITCHELL demonstrated early in his career in Congress that he was strongly opinionated, and to such an extent that other Negroes who were trying to do some thinking despaired of working with him. I think that Mr. Mitchell thought so much of his own way that he was actually contemptuous of those who protested against his actions or his inaction.

Certainly, we do not want rubber stamps in Congress. We do not want men who will hop through the hoop when the White House cracks the whip, when the word comes down from political bosses (particularly alien political bosses) or when they hear the howl of the mob in the distance. But we do need men who will work with somebody, who will seek and give counsel and will follow so far as they can without sacrificing principle or the public interest, the will of their constituents. Mr. Mitchell never seemed, to this writer, interested in working with anybody or in attempting to adjust his program to fit the wishes of his district or his people.

I think I know why. I think that Arthur Mitchell thinks that most Negro leadership is foolish. I would wager that he believes his way is the better way. And I think that any Negro who finds himself at cross-purposes with the race and prides himself in being so, is foolish.

BELIEVES HE IS FOOLISH

AS I wrote above, I believe Mr. Mitchell is courageous and that he has brains. But I do not believe he is wise. I believe he is foolish. I write this with distinct respect for what I believe to be the inner workings of his mind and heart. Despite what I believe to be his contempt for what others think, I am sure that he carries within his breast the hope that some day he will be understood, that many of the commendable things he has undertaken, which have remained obscured because of prejudice against him, will be exposed and that he, as a man and a Congressman, will be re-evaluated in terms of his honest, constructive efforts.

FEB 14 1942

I doubt that he will ever be understood. I suspect that his attitude has been so arbitrary that he will be forgotten before anyone will listen with open mind to an interpretative analysis of his record. I am sure that he leaves office, so far as his race is concerned, "unwept, unhonored and unsung," and that the fault is his. I take no delight in this. I regret it. But facts are facts.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

MITCHELL IS OUT — THANK GOD

One of the healthy signs of the recent primary elections is the final liquidation of Arthur W. Mitchell as representative of the First Congressional District of Illinois. Mr. Mitchell has served three terms in Congress and at no time has he given evidence of political sagacity or enlightened social view point. In fact he has shown a deplorable lack of comprehension of the basic issues with which the national government and the people are grappling.

MAY 9 - 1942

True, he has had some of his speeches inserted in the Congressional Record. Such speeches, however, have been conspicuous more for their lack of coherence and consistency than for sound reasoning and wise statesmanship. He has failed miserably to raise his voice at the propitious moment and on burning questions. When he did speak, he said the wrong thing as was demonstrated by his admonition to Negro mine workers in the Captive coal mine strike of last fall.

He had many golden opportunities to introduce measures against discrimination and segregation in the Army, the Navy, the Air Corps and the defense industries. He could have aided the Federal Housing Coordinator more courageously than he did by exposing the reactionaries in Congress who have opposed with marked bitterness the allocation of decent housing projects to Negroes. When his colleagues were foaming with patriotic fervor following President Roosevelt's declaration of war last December, Congressman Mitchell had a rare chance to strike a telling blow at sectionalism and racial discrimination and at the same time pledge the support of the Negro people to the nation's war efforts. He could have made a

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

CONG. MITCHELL LEAVES D. C. FOR SPEAKING TOUR OF COAST

"The Chicago Bee"
December 5, 1942

Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell left Washington last week on a special trip to the Pacific Coast where he will deliver several important addresses. On Wednesday he was guest speaker before students and faculty of the University of California.

The same day a banquet was given in his honor by a group of distinguished professors of that school and citizens of Los Angeles and Hollywood. On December 4 the Congressman will address the Commonwealth Club in the Gold Room of the Palace Hotel in San Francisco.

This is one of the most exclusive clubs in the United States. It has a membership of more than five thousand and has been addressed by every President since McKinley. Congressman Mitchell is distinctly honored in being invited to address this group of men of the Pacific Coast. His address will be broadcast over the whole Pacific Coast area, including seven states.

The Congressman will also speak at the University of Redlands, Redlands, Calif., and to the Interracial group at San Diego, California, and will review the Tenth Cavalry stationed at Camp Lockett on the Mexican border. One of the high points on the Congressman's itinerary will be his appearance as guest of honor and principal speaker before the Phi Beta Kappa group in Los Angeles.

Chicago, Ill.

He plans to stop over at several important points on his return trip from the West, and to deliver special addresses. He is expected to return to Washington about the middle of December to deliver his farewell address to Congress, after which he will retire to his palatial estate in Virginia.

Congressman Mitchell has been approached several times by newspaper men of both races and urged to make known his plans for the future. It was remarked by one of these newspaper men a few days ago that there is something quite secretive about the future plans of the Congressman.

However, the Congressman refuses to amplify his statement that he is retiring to his farm. Because of the quiet and secretive manner in which he does things, many are of the opinion that it is worthwhile to watch his movements after he leaves Congress.

52c-1942

Mitchell To Set Up Organization

Hopes To Bring About Better Understanding Between Races

DEC 18 1942

The atlanta Daily world

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DEC 18

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Said the 58-year-old Mitchell, who was the first Negro Democrat ever to be elected to Congress:

"I leave with gladness in my heart and high hopes that I may better serve my people in the new task that I have chosen.

"I am going to form an organization of leading white and colored people, not a protest organization, but an organization on broader lines. I will dedicate it to understanding, tolerance and good will, and by those principles—and those principles alone—seek to accomplish a program for the good of all."

On delivering his farewell address to the House Wednesday, Mitchell was paid tribute by member after member, many of them Southerners. He said his first aim was to obtain an audience with the governor of each state in the South.

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"I cannot subscribe to force as the way to solve a problem between people. It will not work in the home with your wife; it will not achieve anything on a larger front.

"Communism is not the solution for the Negro. Education and religion are."

Mitchell will be succeeded by another Negro to the Illinois Congress seat, William L. Dawson of Chicago, and a native- born of Albany, Georgia.

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CONGRESSMAN MITCHELL(ILLINOIS)

Pittsburgh Courier

Pittsburgh,PA.

"THIS MAN MITCHELL" -BY W. G. NUNN

NOV 7 - 1942

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A remarkable insight into the

GEORGIA'S GENE REFUSED TO ATTEND DINNER

Mitchell isn't that kind of It was in 1935, when the late
man. He attends all "affairs of defeated Gene Talmadge (Geor-
state," eats in the House restau- gia) was national committeeman
rant and has his hair trimmed by from his home State. The word was
a barber in the House Barber shop. bruited about that if Mitchell at-
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Southerners.
The subject of this article was
born in Randolph County, Ala., on

OFFICE BOY FOR
BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

At the age of 14, Mitchell left a Randolph County farm to walk the 66 miles to Tuskegee. There he worked on the farm during the day . . . attending school at night. He later served as Booker T. Washington's office boy. He proudly admits patterning his life around the inspiration he received at the feet of the Great Educator.

He studied agriculture under Dr. George Carver during his two years at the famous school. Then he went to Talladega. Other schooling includes post-graduate work at Harvard and Columbia. He studied law in New York and is a member of the Illinois State bar, on a basis of reciprocity. He admitted in his application that he never finished a law school. He apprenticed himself in Washington, D.C., and passed the bar examination there.

The background which made up for his general knowledge was forged out of an educational career which was highly varied. He taught in Choctaw, Sumter and Hale counties. He was principal of the Negro schools in Greensboro for four years and was active as a realtor in Birmingham in 1906-07. He also taught in Dooley County, Georgia.

NOV 7 - 1942

"I saw Governor Miller when he first mounted the bench as a circuit judge, and I lived in Greensboro when Judge Thomas E. Knight Sr., was on the bench," Mitchell admits.

DEFIED MOB

He established the strong Armstrong Agricultural college in the heart of Alabama's black belt, and for ten years served as president of the school, working most of the time without salary. It was while here that an incident happened which had a compelling effect on his future.

It appeared as though the white farmers of Alabama didn't like the way Principal Mitchell taught his children. So they formed a mob to discipline him. Hearing of the expected fireworks, Mitchell dismissed the children, called the faculty together and announced that he would stay and fight it out.

All of the teachers fled but one ...Miss Annie Harris. Armed with a pistol and a Winchester rifle, they lay in wait all night, but the mob halted three miles away.

They had learned that Principal Mitchell was a mighty handy man with a gun.

NOV 7 - 1942

Miss Harris? Why she is the present Mrs. Arthur W. Mitchell!

NEXT WEEK—From Washington . . . to Chicago . . . and back to Washington, as he makes good on a boast to friends

Morning Star Journal
December 17, 1942

NEGRO RETIRES FROM CONGRESS 'TO SERVE RACE'

Arthur W. Mitchell

To Seek to Promote Tolerance, Goodwill

By ROBERT HUMPHREYS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—(INS)—Having voluntarily relinquished an assured re-election to Congress, a gray-haired Chicago Negro who was once Booker T. Washington's office boy, Thursday headed back for the sunny South to devote the balance of his life "to bringing about better understanding between my people and those with whom we live."

As he began his journey to a farm south of Petersburg, Va., Arthur W. Mitchell, the first Negro Democrat ever to be elected to Congress, carried with him the personal good wishes of President Roosevelt, numerous high Government officials and scores of members of the House with whom he had served since 1933.

"I leave," said the 58-year-old Mitchell, "with gladness in my heart and high hopes that I may better serve my people in the new task that I have chosen.

To Form Organization

"I am going to form an organization of leading white and colored people, not a protest organization, but an organization on broader lines. I will dedicate it to understanding, tolerance and good will, and by those principles —and those principles alone—seek to accomplish a program for the good of all."

Mitchell, whose farewell address in the House Wednesday was the signal for member after member, many of them Southerners, to rise and pay tribute to him, said his first aim was to obtain an audience with the governor of each state in the South.

"I want their counsel on how to proceed and I want their co-operating," Mitchell asserted. "I have repeatedly spoken in the House against those of my race who have succumbed to agitation and aligned themselves with force.

"I cannot subscribe to force as the way to solve a problem between people. It will not work in the home with your wife; it will not achieve anything on a larger front.

"Communism is not the solution for the Negro. Education and religion are."

Negro Succeeds Him

Mitchell, who decided that he could perform a greater service for his people by leaving Congress to launch his new program, will be succeeded by another Negro, William L. Dawson, of Chicago.

The retiring congressman was born of slave parents, studied under the Negro leader, Booker T. Washington, was graduated from Tuskegee Institute, obtained a law degree from Columbia University, and later attended Harvard.

As he journeyed toward Petersburg Thursday he bore this penned tribute from President Roosevelt:

"In leaving Congress you must have a feeling of satisfaction that you have had a part in the constructive legislation which has meant so much to the welfare of the people as a whole."

Mooresville (N. C.) Tribune
December 31, 1942

Negro Congressman

Arthur W. Mitchell, the first Negro Democrat ever to be elected to Congress, voluntarily relinquished an assured reelection and headed back for the Sunny South to devote the balance of his life, as he says, "to bring about better understanding between my people and those with whom we live."

We call attention to the statement of the Negro Congressman because he has excellent judgment in regard to most questions that arise between the races. He points out that he has "repeatedly spoken in the House against those of my race who have succumbed to agitation and aligned themselves with force," saying, "I cannot subscribe to force as the way to solve a problem between people."

Congressman Mitchell says he leaves the House with gladness in his heart and high hopes that he may better serve his people in the new task that he has chosen.

He plans to form "an organization of leading white and colored people—not a protest organization — but an organization on broader lines," dedicated "to understanding, tolerance and goodwill," and says, "by those principles—and those principles alone—seek to accomplish a program for the good of all."

The Congressman, who was born of slave parents, and studied under Booker T. Washington, in beginning his journey through the South, declared that his first aim was to obtain an audience with the Governor of each state in the South because he wants their counsel on how to proceed and their cooperation. Significantly, he comments: "Communism is not the solution for the Negro. Education and religion are."

On the basis of the above statement of principles, the former Congressman is entitled to receive the cooperation of the better class of white and Negro people in the South.

There is a great field for work and an opportunity to accomplish a constructive service in bringing about a better understanding between the two races and in gradually securing for the Negroes in the South better educational and economic advantages.

52c-1942

ICKES ADVANCES RACE EMPLOYES TO HIGHER RANKS

Pittsburgh Courier

MAY 23 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C. May 21—Increased recognition of services rendered by Negro employees under the war program of the Department of the Interior is shown by the promotion of four Negro workers to professional grade duties, and an expansion in the number of colored employees in clerical positions, it was announced by Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes.

Constituting a wider application than ever before of Secretary Ickes' policy that efficiency should determine the advancement of employees in the department, the following have received promotions into the professional grade within the past few months:

George H. Gray, promoted from senior clerk in the Homestead Division, General Land Office, to be a law examiner in the Minerals Division; Ulysses S. Garnes, law examiner in the Homestead Division, General Land Office; Roscoe W. Ross, law examiner in the Minerals Division, General Land Office, promoted from his former position as file clerk and adjudicator in the Homestead Division; Roland G. Henderson, appointed to the position of geodetic computer in the Topographic Branch of the Geological Survey.

MANY ADDED SINCE OCTOBER

Latest statistics of the Department reveal that 135 out of the 569 Negro employees in Washington are listed in professional and sciestific, sub-professional, or clerical positions, and that all but one of the assignments in the professional and sub-professional grades were made since October 1941. For example, the number of professional classifications in the General Land Office was increased from 1 to 4 within that period, while the one professional and nine sub-professional appointments in the Geological Survey all were made since October.

The number of Negro clerical workers in the Bituminous Coal Division was increased from 34 last October to 56 at the present time, while the number of Negro employees of all grades in that Division was increased from 35 to 71 during that period.

The increase in the number of Negro employees of higher grades in the Department is regarded as a significant index of the advancement of the group toward wider participation in government service based on educational qualifica-

D.C.
Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

List of Capital Leaders Has Twenty-Nine Names

Twenty-four Headed by Judge Hastie Are Officials, Five are Advisers

WASHINGTON

William Kiplinger, in his new book, "Washington is Like That," lists twenty-four men and women Federal officials and five advisers as the most prominent colored leaders in the capital.

This is the Kiplinger list:

Judge William H. Hastie

Civilian aide to the Secretary of War, a graduate of Amherst College and Harvard Law School, and the first Negro ever given a Federal judgeship. He was brought into the government by Ickes to be an assistant solicitor in the Department of the Interior. Ickes later backed him for the job of Federal judge in the Virgin Islands.

Dr. Robert Weaver

Another Harvard man, first Negro to get his Ph.D. in economics from that institution, now adviser to Sidney Hillman and the War Production Board on Negro labor. Was brought into the government by Ickes.

Earl Dickerson

Member of the Committee on Fair Employment Practice. He is a Chicago lawyer and politician, a friend of Mayor Kelly.

Milton P. Webster

Of Chicago, the second Negro member of the Committee on Fair Employment Practice, and international vice-president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

Mary McLeod Bethune

Director of Negro activities for NYA, and president of the National Council of Negro Women. She struggled to educate herself, founded a school which has become Bethune-Cookman College, and is now president of it.

William Pickens

A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Yale, who is on the Treasury defense bond staff.

Lorimer Milton

The only Negro $1-a-year man in the government and a graduate of Brown University. He flies up to Washington from Atlanta where he is a bank president.

Ira DeA. Reid

A consultant in minorities in the Social Security Board's Bureau of Employment Security in Atlanta. He studied at Columbia University and the London School of Economics.

Edgar G. Brown

Adviser to the Civilian Conservation Corps, and president of the United Government Employees, Inc., a union of low-paid government workers, mostly Negroes.

William J. Trent, Jr.

Racial relations officer in the Federal Works Agency. He was brought into the government by Ickes, and served for a while as his racial adviser.

Crystal Bird Fauset

In charge of racial relations, Office of Civilian Defense. She is a former member of the Pennsylvania State Legislature, and was an assistant WPA state administrator.

Robert Taylor

Housing consultant in the office of the Defense Housing Coordinator. He is a member of the Chicago Housing Authority, and manages a set of apartments built by the Rosenwald Fund to demonstrate that low-rent properties could yield good returns.

Dr. Booker T. McGraw

Assistant to Taylor at the office of the Defense Housing Coordinator, and formerly under Leon Henderson handling war finance. He is a professor at Lincoln University at Jefferson City, Mo., and is an expert on French monetary policy.

George M. Johnson

Assistant executive secretary to the Committee on Fair Employment Practice. He is a Howard University law professor who formerly was tax counsel for the California State Board of Equalization.

Thomas N. Roberts

Special assistant to the personnel director of the Department of Agriculture. He formerly worked on a Farm Security Administration land utilization project at Tuskegee Institute.

Major Campbell C. Johnson

Executive assisant to Brigadier General Lewis B. Hershey, head of Selective Service. He is a former YMCA worker.

Dr. Channing Tobias

Member of the Selective Service Board, also a former YMCA worker.

Frank S. Horne

Special assistant on racial relations at the United States Housing Authority.

W. Robert Ming

Member of the staff of the Office of Price Administration. He is a Howard University professor, and a graduate of Chicago University.

Dr. Ralph Bunche

Expert on native problems in the British Empire Section of the Library of Congress.

Charles Franklin

Economist for the Social Security Board. He took his Ph.D. in economics at Columbia University.

Truman K. Gibson, Jr.

Assistant to Judge William H. Hastie who is civilian aide to the Secretary of War. Gibson is a University of Chicago Law School graduate.

Dr. William H. Dean, Jr.

Consultant on locations of industry for the National Resources Planning Board. He is a professor at Atlanta University.

Dr. Rayford Logan

Member of the Advisory Committee to The Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs (Nelson Rockefeller). He is a professor of history at Howard University, and took his Ph.D. at Harvard.

A number of other Negro leaders are influential within Washington, without being government employees, or official advisers of the Government. Here are some of them:

Walter White

Executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He is a graduate of Atlanta University, and was a special student at the College of the City of New York. He is a large part white, and is a powerful force in all Negro affairs.

A. Philip Randolph

President of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. He is an influential leader who has access to the President and who organized the job march which was called off after the President's anti-discrimination edict of Summer, 1941.

F. D. Ransom

An Indianapolis lawyer and politician, and a frequent adviser to the President on Negro matters.

Lester B. Granger

Executive secretary of the National Urban League and another White House caller.

Dr. Frederick Douglas Patterson

President of Tuskegee Institute. He is a veterinary graduate of Iowa State College, and received a master of science degree there and a Ph.D. from Cornell University.

Atlanta, Ga. World
August 12, 1942

Atlanta Univ. Professor Given High Position

Dr. Wm. Dean Named to Post In Virgin Islands

WASHINGTON. —(ANP) — Dr. William Dean of the department of economics of Atlanta University has been named economic adviser to the Virgin Islands and will soon assume this post, according to well informed Washington circles. This is one of the highest posts in the administration and carries a salary commensurate with the position.

Dr. Dean formerly served in the district with the War Economic board as an adviser and his new post is the result of the fine work he did with the former group.

It is expected that he will take his family with him, his wife being the daughter of Dr. Channing H. Tobias, secretary for Negro work of the International YMCA board.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Assistant to Weaver Visits War Plants Here

AUG 10 1942

Clarence M. Mitchell, assistant director of the Negro Manpower Service headed by Dr. Robert C. Weaver, was in Kansas City early last week. He returned to Washington by air Monday night.

Mitchell was here on a routine field visit made at intervals to the 12 areas into which the work of the Manpower Service is divided. He visited war plants in this area, surveying the participation of Negroes in employment in skilled and unskilled capacities.

He was accompanied on the tour of industries by Lewis W. Clymer, field representative of Dr. Weaver's office in the four-state area of Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

Mitchell also visited in St. Louis and Parsons, Kas., while in this section.

Mitchell and Clymer are two of the 12 men working under Dr. Weaver. Four are attached to the Washington office and eight are field assistants. The four in Washington, besides Dr. Weaver, are Mitchell, Ted Poston, public relations counsellor; George W. Streater, labor specialist, and James C. Evans, labor training assistants.

The field assistants and their regions are: Edward Lawson, New England and New York; Reginald A. Johnson, Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Jersey; J. Lawrence Duncan, Michigan, Kentucky and Ohio; Julius M. Gardner, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and North Carolina; Austin Scott, Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin; Lewis W. Clymer, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri and Kansas; Cy W. Record, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi; Clarence Johnson, California, Oregon and Washington. In addition to his work in the Washington office, Mr. Evans is field assistant in Texas, Louisiana, New Mexico and Arizona.

Before joining Dr. Weaver's staff about a year ago, Mitchell was executive secretary of the Urban League in St. Paul. He is a native of Baltimore and is a former newspaper man. He married the former Miss Juanita Jackson, at one time director of youth work for the N. A.A.C.P.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Elmer Davis Has Two News Men As Aides

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Elmer Davis, director of the Office of War Information, which absorbed the office of Facts and Figures, has selected Ted Poston, 36, former New York newspaper man and William G. Alexander, 28, former Denver newspaper man, as information specialists on his staff.

They are the only two colored information specialist in his department. As such they give attention to all releases and particularly those concerning the Negro.

In an interview here, Mr. Davis, when asked what he thought the duty of the Negro press should be during war time, said he felt it should give attention to national as well as racial problems.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Atlanta Univ. Professor Given High Position

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Dr. Dean formerly served in the district with the War Economic board as an adviser and his new post is the result of the fine work he did with the [illegible] group.

It is expected that he will take his family with him, his wife being the daughter of Dr. Channing H. Tobias, secretary for Negro work of the International YMCA board.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Judge Scott First Negro To Serve in Police Court

A precedent was set in the District of Columbia this week when Judge Armond W. Scott, of the Municipal Court, was assigned to the Criminal Branch of the court by Chief Justice George P. Barse.

It was the first time in history that a Negro judge has sat in the criminal branch of a court in the District. This was brought about by the merger of the Police Court and the Municipal Court or the court that tries civil cases

OCT 3 - 1942

The merger provides that the judges rotate in both courts. Judge Scott has already tried several cases in the criminal division and will be assigned to that branch for the month of October, beginning on Monday.

Judge Scott's long years of practice in criminal law makes him peculiarly fitted to serve in that branch as judge. He has won the respect of practicing attorneys during the years he has served in the civil division and already favorable coments have been made by lawyers on his assignment to the criminal division.

OCT 3 - 1942

Negroes have long contended that a colored judge should be appointed to the Police Sourt or criminal division of the courts here since 80 per cent of the cases in that branch are colored, and a Negro would have a better understanding and clearer insight into their problems. The Tribune for years has been in the vanguard of the fight for a Negro judge in the criminal division of the courts here.

Judge Scott will serve in all branches of the merged courts, including jury, United States Branch, traffic and District Branch.

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

D. C. Judge Given New Bench Post

OCT 17 1942

(From Defender Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The only Negro judge in the city now sitting on the bench, Judge Armond W. Scott, has just been given a new assignment which places him in the District branch of the criminal division. A recent merger of the municipal court and police court of the District into one unit with a Criminal and a Civil Division, has widened the scope of the court and raised it in judicial prestige.

Judge Scott, who has been a member of the Municipal Court bench for the past seven years, by Presidential appointment, has been given this new assignment in the first transfer of judges since the consolidation of the courts in July.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Robt. Weaver Gets New Post

NOV 8 - 1942

WASHINGTON, Nov. 5—Robert Weaver, whose post as chief of Negro War Manpower Service was vacated last week, has been appointed as assistant to the director of operations of the War Manpower Commission. Weaver's new appointment became effective Tuesday.

Although his duties have not as yet been stipulated, he will accept the position, it was learned. His field staff, under the Negro Manpower Service setup has been transferred to the Fair Employment Practice committee.

52c-1942

Pickens Heads Negro Section Of War Bonds Division Of U.S. Treas.

"The Informer"
Houston, Tex.

WASHINGTON, Aug (ANP)—Dean William Pickens has been appointed chief of the Negro organizations section of the war bond and savings stamp division it was announced this week by the treasury department. He was elevated from his former post as senior officer of the section.

Pickens will be in charge of the program designed to stimulate interest among Negro groups and organizations in the purchase of war bonds and stamps.

The noted author and lecturer will meet every Friday morning in the old Treasury Department building with other chief officials. He is the only colored official assigned to that duty.

Shortly after his appointment, Pickens reported that interest in the savings program was increased in interest among Negroes through out the country.

Has Aides

Pickens is assisted in his work by J. O. Thomas, John Whitten and Mrs. Nell Hunter. Others attached to his office are: Misses Lauranell Forbes, Thelma Howard, Nathalia Lindsay and Mrs. Inez Monroe.

Before his connection with the United States Treasury department, Dean Pickens was for many years director of branches for the NAACP.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Bethune Slur Protested By Carolinians

COLUMBIA, S. C. —(SNS)— The Citizens' Committee of South Carolina, and affiliated organizations and persons protested Tuesday night to "a certain federal source and responsible persons" for the slurring of Mary McLeod-Bethune by former state supreme judge, Eugene S. Blease, who referred to her as a "big greasy Negro drawing $6,000 per year," under the NYA at the Columbia Township Auditorium Friday night.

The body protested, also, against the declaration of incumbent Burnet R. Maybank, Blease's opponent in the U. S. Senatorial race, for asserting a belief in "white supremacy," and similar declarations by other candidates. An investigation was asked into recent riots in the upstate which, it was declared, bore evidences of a well organized plot to create unrest between the races in the state and hamstring the war effort.

Mr. Blease made his reference to Mrs. Bethune in a heated debate with Senator Maybank on twelve questions addressed to the senator. Mr. Blease also said Mr. Maybank was responsible for a course in cosmetology taught at the now closed NYA school at Chester.

Holding up a copy of a newspaper which witnesses decribe as being a "tabloid" and a folded copy of "The Lighthouse," the former judge said the paper was supporting Maybank and was against him.

D.C.
Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

D. C. Probation Post Given To W. Hueston, Jr.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—W. C. Hueston, Jr., associated with his father, Judge William C. Hueston, Sr., in the practice of law here, was appointed last week deputy probation officer for the District of Columbia by the Chief Justice of the Municipal Court, on the recommendation of Municipal Court Judge Armond W. Scott.

Hueston, the first colored probation officer of the District, is a graduate of the college and the school of law of Howard University, and has been admitted to practice before the District Court and the Appellate Court of the District of Columbia.

Hueston's wife, Mrs. Rosa Montgomery Hueston is a daughter of an ex-high school teacher here and granddaughter of a former superintendent of public schools of the District.

Hueston is a member of Morning Star Lodge, No. 40, I.B.P.O.E.W., and associate editor of the Washington Eagle, official organ of the Grand Lodge of Elks.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Hastie Protested 'Evils'

OCT 3 - 1942

Offered to Resign Despite Gibson's Denial to Associated Press

OCT 3 - 1942

WASHINGTON, D.C., Oct. 1—Judge William H. Hastie, civilian aide to the Secretary of War, indignant because of recent happenings in the War Department and in the Army, affecting the Negro soldier and his own status as an adviser on policy respecting the Negro soldier, voiced a vigorous complaint in the highest office in the War Department Wednesday morning, September 23, and affirmatively insisted that it was his conviction that he should quit.

OCT 3 - 1942

He was advised to stand pat and promised that his complaints would be promptly investigated.

The above is true despite reports circulated by the Associated Negro Press and credited to Truman K. Gibson, assistant civilian aide, emphatically denying that Judge Hastie had considered resigning.

WOULD FORCE GIBSON TO RESIGN

OCT 3 - 1942

If Judge Hastie had insisted on his conviction that he should resign, Mr. Gibson would have gone with him.

The fact that neither Judge Hastie nor Mr. Gibson will affirm the above story does not alter its truthfulness or accuracy.

As stated in the ANP story, had Judge Hastie and Mr. Gibson normally resigned, their action would have merited an official release.

However, the fact that Judge Hastie was so disturbed by the problems involving Negro soldiers which confronted him that he even considered resigning was and is important to all Negroes who have confidence in him as a protector of their and the government's rights. This disposition on the part of the civilian aide, obviously, would not merit an official release.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

W.M.Cooper Is Named To OWI Post

NOV 14 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Announcement has been made of the appointment of William M. Cooper, of Hampton, Va., to the post of senior field representative in the Office of War Information, in Washington, D. C.

Mr. Cooper, who has been associated with Hampton Institute since 1928, has undertaken the OWI assignment on a part-time basis, spending from two to three days each week in the nation's capital.

NOV 14 1942

In his new capacity, Mr. Cooper will be engaged in developing plans for setting up War Information institutes throughout the country, especially in the South and other regions where considerable numbers of Negroes are concentrated.

Under the general direction of the Head of the Field Activities Section of OWI, Mr. Cooper will serve in a liason capacity with other government departments and private civic and educational organizations in an effort to promote an intelligent understanding of the war issues on the part of the general population.

WIDE CONNECTIONS

NOV 14 1942

Besides his post as director of the summer school and extension work at Hampton Institute, he holds leading posts with the Virginia Interracial Commission, American Teachers Association, Negro Organization Society, Virginia Conference of Extension Workers, Virginia State Teachers Association, and the Virginia Society of Research.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

TWO NEGROES WITH THE FARM CREDIT ADMIN.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Oct. 29—Mrs. Gladys McCoy Clark, Kansas City, Mo., and L. J. Washington, county agricultural agent, Winnsboro, La., have been appointed to positions with the Farm Credit administration. The announcement of the appointments was made this week by the Farm Credit administration.

Mrs. Clark is to serve as secretary to Cornelius King, special assistant to the governor. Mr. Washington will serve as information assistant and will aid in conducting an informational and educational program among Negro farmers.

"All racial groups — including the Negro — are making important contributions to the war effort," said Mr. King. "These include sending men and boys into the armed forces, working in defense plants and on farms where they produce food-for-freedom. The maximum production of essential food crops, the investment of a part of the net farm income in war bonds and the maintaining of a sound financial position now and during the post-war period are important in winning both the war and the peace."

One of the special functions of the new information assistant, Mr. Washington, will be to assist in the program of getting Negro farmers to make the greatest contributions possible toward the attaining of the local and national goals.

Mrs. Clark is a graduate of Lincoln High school in Kansas City, Wilberforce university in Ohio, attended Lincoln university in Jefferson City and Teachers college in Kansas City. For several years she has been employed in Kansas City—teaching subjects in evening classes at Lincoln and R. T. Coles High schools, serving as secretary-cashier of the National Benefit Life Insurance company, and later as district secretary of the North Central District of the Jackson County Social Security commission.

Mr. Washington holds a B.S. degree in agriculture from Southern university, Scotlandville, La. His additional training includes one year of special work at the Louisiana Experiment station and three summers of work for In-Service County Agricultural agents held at Tuskegee Institute, Ala. At the time of his appointment, he was serving as county agent in Franklin and Richland Parishes, Louisiana, and in this capacity, he worked for some nine years. He has also had three years of experience as a teacher of vocational agriculture.

Mrs. Clark assumed her duties October 19, and Mr. Washington is to report for duty in Kansas City November 2.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

V. I. JUDGE URGED FOR U. S. SUPREME BENCH

ST. THOMAS, V. I.

A resolution urging President Roosevelt to appoint Federal Judge Herman E. Moore to the U. S. Supreme Court, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Justice James F. Byrnes, was adopted by the Municipal Council here on Wednesday. Judge Moore resigned in 1939 from the Illinois Commerce Commission, where he served as assistant commissioner from 1935, to accept the Federal judgeship.

APPRECIATES CONFIDENCE

Interviewed Thursday as he was about to board the Pan-American Clipper en route to Washington on an official visit, the judge said:

"I know nothing about the situation concerning the Supreme Court, but I do appreciate the expression of the Municipal Council and the people of the islands for their confidence in me"

PRAISED BY PRESS

Lauding his achievements, the Daily News of November 10 said editorially that Judge Moore "can look back on three years of distinguished service" here and "deserver our gratitude for his just and able administration."

A 1918 graduate of the oston University Law School he received his master's degree there in 1919 and later served as assistant attorney for the Boston elevated railway, being the first colored person to hold this post.

In 1921 he went to Chicago where he practiced for eighteen years. His wife, Mrs. E. Marie Moore, is in New York.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Republicans Join To Snap At "Advisors"

FEB 5 - 1942

Seek To Strike Through Control Of The Budget

By ALVIN WHITE

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(A N P)—Having succeeded in ousting Carmody, Foreman and Straus because of their liberal administrative policies, the Dixie clique in congress aided by certain reactionary Republicans, has further developed its conspiracy to eliminate Negro participation in government by a direct attack upon legislative and administrative provisions against racial discrimination.

To gain this objective, these congressmen have attacked the whole concept of non-discrimination in government and have sought to strike from the budget of federal agencies funds allocated to activities designed to obtain recognition of the needs and utilization of the abilities of minority groups. Entrenched on the powerful appropriations committee of the house of representatives, these Negro-hating congressmen are in position to do incalculable harm to racial progress.

RAISED BY REPUBLICAN

FEB 5 - 1942

This issue came to focus during the hearings on the Independent Offices appropriation bill for 1943 before the house appropriations sub-committee. Questioning John Edy, executive assistant and budget officer of the Federal Works agency, Rep. Richard B. Wigglesworth of Massachusetts, Republican member of the committee, asked if the FWA had a racial relations set-up. Quickly following up, Rep. Joe Starnes of Alabama asked: "Why was that necessary?"

Edy: "It seemed to the administrator to be desirable, in view of the fact there were claims of race discrimination, especially against Negroes, and this racial relations person is a Negro, and a very competent man."

Starnes: "Who is he—Weaver? (Robert C. Weaver).

Edy: "No, his name is Trent." (William J. Trent, Jr.)

Starnes: "What is his background, what organizations has he been affiliated with?"

Edy: "He came from PWA".

STARNES QUESTIONS

FEB 5 - 1942

J. J. Madigan(executive assistant, Defense Public Works): "He was on our payroll, appointed by the administrator".

Starnes: "He was not with the United States Housing authority?"

Edy: "Not that I know of".

In the ensuing discussion, Wigglesworth, who led the attack upon both racial relations and labor relations activities, asserted that he did not see why racial relations setups were needed." We have never had them before; we have always handled it on the American plan," he said.

FEB 5 - 1942

CALLS IT "ERROR'

Starnes: "I think, frankly, instead of handling this proposition they are put in there to promote certain ideas and ideals, and to promote the idea that racial discrimination is being practiced, and they are put in there for a special purpose rather than for the common good....We have fallen into the error, in my judgment, right here on this hill, oftentimes, of some member, probably well intentioned, writing an amendment into the army appropriation bill, or attempting to do it, or to put something in that there will be no discrimination practiced by the army or navy on account of race, creed or color."

James M. Fitzpatrick (Democrat, New York): "You believe in justice to all regardless of race, creed or color?"

FEB 5 - 1942

Starnes: "Certainly".

Denouncing establishment of racial relations offices, Starnes is reported to have quoted the speech which Weaver delivered before the National Negro congress in April 1940, when he was special assistant to Administrator Nathan Straus of USHA. Starnes quoted, according to inside information, the following from the Weaver speech:

UPHOLDS NEGROES

"What effect the government's public housing program will have on the problem of residential segregation only time will tell. However, the program has already made an initial demonstration of two important factor's involved in this problem; first that Negro occupancy need not result in depreciation of property, that the Negro is a responsible tenant in a decent home; and second, that the two races can live harmoniously together in the same project, that the Negro can be a good neighbor as well as a god tenant".

Starnes threatened to bring the whole matter upon the floor of the house, but was dissuaded doing so after a compromise was reached This compromise is embodied in the report by Rep. Woodrum (Democrat of Virginia) chairman of the sub-committee.

"While the committee has recommended no decrease in proposed expenditures for the racial relations and labor relations activities", the report reads, "it is of the opinion that the value and necessity of such work is questionable and there should be no further expansion of either of these units".

NORTHERNERS USED

Part of the scheme of the Dixie Democrats in combatting Negro participation in government is to use northern Republicans from districts sparsely populated by Negroes. Last year they used Rep. Case of South Dakota for this purpose. Wigglesworth is their "fall guy" this year.

Although the USHA budget got by the house this year unimpaired, it is believed here that the southern clique will continue their efforts to eliminate all sound racial policies by forcing out other liberal administrators and by denying funds to the agencies. Unless friends of the Negro among members of congress are on their toes, this can be done quietly and quickly on the pretense that there is no discrimination under the "American plan".

FEB 5 - 1942

VIEWED WITH CONCERN

In Washington, this conspiracy is viewed with real concern for the futre. The ousting of Carmody Foreman and Straus is held over the heads of all administrators who might desire to be fair. Martin Carpenter of the Social Security Board narrowly escaped a similiar fate after ordering discontinuance of jim crow regulations in the District of Columbia Employment center.

FEB 5 - 1942

"In the face of such threats", one national leader commented, "we cannot expect important administrative heads to follow sound racial policies in their agencies unless they have strongly organized support which demands that congressional interference of this sort be halted. Such suport will have to come from Negro voters and their friends. They must demand that their congressmen, regardless of party, take steps to scotch this conspiracy."

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Mrs. Fausett Is Under Fire Of Legislators

FEB 15 1942

Seek To Cover Up Reaction Against Pensions

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(A N P) Charges and counter charges are being hurled back and forth in Washington with economy minded congressmen, peeved perhaps over public reaction to their recent attempt to pension themselves upon completion of service firing fusillades of words at units of the government which touch closely upon Negro life in America.

First and foremost in the minds of the public is the blast unleashed at the Office of Civilian Defense. Reaching the tempo of a tornado, publicity lashed the appointment of OCD reaching down into the vital spot of racial relations where Mrs. Crystal Bird Fauset is in charge of a section.

FEB 15 1942

RAISE AMERICAN ISSUE

Asking in an involved manner why such a department is necessary and why should such "un-American bureaus be created" the point is attempted that this is unnecessary.

Realizing the importance of this department, leaders of the OCD sought the best persons for positions in the division. Not only are they asking why the bureau exists, but probers ars asking what are its functions...asking in such a manner as to make it appear that such things are unnecessary.

Rep. Wigglestorth of Massachusetts, where Negroes have few opportunities commensurate with their ability (to wit, so many Negro girls trained for office work leave that section because of unemployment), is one of the prime movers in these investigations.

FEB 15 1942

FSA UNDER FIRE

At the same time, Farm Security is under the hammer because of the payments being made white farmers in the south to take care of their poll taxes, permitting them to vote, while Negroes are not being given the same opportunity to vote in congressional elections or on the Republican ticket if they so desire.

Farm Security has done an excellent job in the south as far as Negro farmers are concerned and most of its programs have been helpful in rehabilitating sharecroppers, farm owners and farmers who are being shoved around by the war department which sought new land for military reservations.

But when this poll tax payment out of FSA loans came to light, and it was stated that Negroes were not participating in it, the administration was asked to explain why any farm money was being diverted toward such an end.

The story first came to light in Alabama where investigations showed much money had been paid out in this manner, but none to Negroes.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

ATTY. BERRY GETS MORALE DIVISION JOB

MAR 21 1942

Cincinnati Lawyer Named To Federal Office Of Facts And Figures

CINCINNATI, Ohio—Theodore M. Berry, Cincinnati attorney was appointed recently to the morale division of the Office of Facts and Figures. The Office of Facts and Figures is under the direction of Archibald MacLeish, librarian of Congress.

At the time of his appointment, Berry was serving as assistant prosecuting attorney of Hamilton County and was the first Negro ever appointed to this office in the county.

The Office of Facts and Figures will be responsible for interpreting to the public the consequences of an enemy victory and for defining the aims and objectives of our government, stated MacLeish, speaking from Washington recently on the Chicago Round Table broadcast.

Berry will serve as a liason officer and as chief of morale for minority groups. Berry, a graduate of the University of Cincinnati and the university law school, brings to his new office a brilliant record of achievement.

MAR 21 1942

He served as national co-ordinator of the Allied Councils for Defense-Affiliate of Committee for Participation of Negroes in the National Defense program. He is on the legal staff of the N.A.A.C.P., a member of the Board of Division of Negro Welfare-Council of Social Agencies of Cincinnati and very active in many other worthwhile civic activities. For the past ten years he has been engaged in a successful law practice in Cincinnati.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Patterson, Barnett Named Consultants To Sec. Wickard

MAR 21 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, and Claude A. Barnett, director of the Associated Negro Press, have been named special assistants to the Secretary of Agriculture. The announcement of the appointments was made this week by Secretary Claude R. Wickard.

Dr. Patterson and Mr. Barnett will serve the Secretary as consultants and advisers on important problems affecting Negro farmers and their part in the war effort. One of their special functions will be to help insure the integration and full participation of Negro farmers in the food-for-freedom campaign.

APPOINTMENTS SET PRECEDENT

The appointments mark the first time that members of the Race have been named assistants to the Secretary of Agriculture. In setting this precedent, Secretary Wickard makes agriculture the third Executive Branch of the Government to place Negro Americans in such positions.

In asking Doctor Patterson and Mr. Barnett to serve on his staff the Secretary's letter said in part:

"Your interest in agriculture dates back several years, and stems, I feel, from a genuine desire to help improve conditions on the farm for thousands of your people. In the position which I am asking you to accept, you will, I believe, be able to make a fine contribution to the general welfare of Negro farmers. And in your current war effort your work of helping to promote the full participation of Negro farmers in the food-for-freedom campaign will mean for them a better diet and better health.

"Now, as always, I feel that Negroes, both on the farm and in our cities and towns, are ready to do their full share. I have no doubt of their loyalty and devotion. But, like all our people, their energies must be implemented and directed so that they may do the things which count most toward final victory."

TO CONFER WITH WICKARD

Mr. Barnett's headquarters will be in Chicago, and Doctor Patterson's headquarters will be in Tuskegee. Both will confer with Secretary Wickard from time to time and make recommendations as to methods of assisting Negro farmers in helping to meet the food-for-freedom goals. They will also work closely with various agricultural bureaus including Extension Service, Farm Security Administration, Agricultural Adjustment Administration and USDA War Boards.

Doctor Patterson, who is a doctor of veterinary medicine and a doctor of philosophy in bacteriology, received his training at Iowa State College and Cornell University. From 1923-1928 he was a member of the faculty at Virginia State College, teaching chemistry and later heading the department of agriculture. Doctor Patterson accepted a position at Tuskegee in 1928 as veterinarian and bacteriologist.

In 1932 he was promoted to the position of director of the school of agriculture and three years later inaugurated president of the institution, succeeding the late Dr. R. R. Moton who retired.

FOUNDED ANP IN 1916

MAR-21 1942

In 1916 Mr. Barnett founded the Associated Negro Press. With headquarters in Chicago, ANP, under the direction of Mr. Barnett, established bureaus in Washington, New York, London, Paris and other strategic metropolitan centers. Today it is the largest Negro news gathering organization in the world.

In 1937, USDA's Agricultural Adjustment Administration engaged Mr. Barnett to make a study of the Negro farm situation in the South. He spent several weeks touring the South, collecting information which has been valuable to the Department.

Savannah, Ga., News
April 8, 1942

COLORED FORUM TO HEAR DR. T. N. ROBERTS

Program at First Congregational On April 19

Dr. Thomas N. Roberts, special assistant to the director of personnel in the office of the U. S. secretary of agriculture, will be the guest speaker at the Chatham County Colored Forum Sunday, April 19, at 4 o'clock at First Congregational Church, Habersham and Taylor streets.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

New Assistants Confer With Sec'y Wickard



APR 6 1942

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Dr. F. D. Patterson, left, president of Tuskegee Institute, and Claude A. Barnett, right, director of the Associated Negro Press, who were recently named special assistants to the Secretary of Agriculture, are shown holding their first conference with Secretary Claude R. Wickard in Washington last week. Their appointments mark the first time that Race members have been chosen to serve the Department in such capacities. Dr. Patterson and Mr. Barnett, who will continue in their respective positions at Tuskegee and Chicago, are acting as consultants and advisers to the Secretary on matters affecting Negro farmers. One of their special functions will be to help insure the integration and full participation of Negro farmers in the food-for-freedom program.

USDA PHOTO BY FORSYTHE.

Dr. Roberts, who is an "agricultural career man," has an interesting background of training and experience. After completing his grammar school education in the public schools here he entered Vorhees Institute, Denmark, S. C., where he received the high school diploma and a certificate in vocational agriculture. He then entered Morehouse College and for two years took studies in biology and chemistry.

He received the bachelor of science degree in agriculture from Hampton Institute in the class of 1927, where he majored in agricultural education and took a minor in general agriculture. Upon graduating from Hampton, he was awarded a general education board scholarship which enabled him to enter the University of Wisconsin and pursue courses in agricultural economics. He received the bachelor of science degree in agriculture from the University of Wisconsin in 1928, majoring in general agricultural economics.

In 1931, Dr. Roberts received his first Rosenwald fellowship and returned to the University of Wisconsin where he received the degree of master of science in agricultural economics, majoring in co-operative marketing and purchasing, and took minors in agricultural education and land economics. Another Rosenwald fellowship was awarded in 1940 and a third in 1941 permitting him to complete the work for doctor of philosophy degree at the University of Wisconsin in agricultural economics. He was attending the University of Wisconsin at the time of his appointment as special assistant to the director of personnel of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Beginning his professional career as a rural school teacher in Camden county, Dr. Roberts moved steadily up the ladder in his chosen field. He taught vocational agriculture at the Georgia State College in 1928, after graduating from the University of Wisconsin.

He inaugurated the "Quarterly System of Apprenticeship Teaching" for prospective "Vo-Ag" teachers in 1929. Dr. Roberts remained at the Georgia State College for six years; while there he also taught courses in agricultural economics and for five years served as camp director of the State 4-H Clubs camp.

In 1930, Mr. Roberts also taught in the first negro in-service extension school, a co-operative venture between the United States Extension Service and the Julius Rosenwald Fund. He was stationed at the Nashville, Tenn., and Prairie View, Texas, centers for this work.

When the Federal Land Utilization program got under way in 1935, Mr. Roberts was appointed the first negro project manager of a mutiple land use project in the country. The 12,000 acre Tuskegee project on which extensive operations in forestry, grazing, game and wild life developments, erosion conrtol, fire protection and suppression, the resettlement, and rehabilitation of families stranded on the land afforded a large opportunity for analysis of the composite approach to land use.

52c-1942
Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Robert Weaver To Manpower Board?

MAY 1 - 1942

By A. E. WHITE

WASHINGTON.—(ANP) — With the creation of the one Manpower board under the administration of Paul V. McNutt, all labor training and supply divisions of the War Production board came to a standstill.

Sidney Hillman, who had headed up this division, is now an adviser to the President and on extended leave.

It is anticipated that Dr. Robert C. Weaver's division of the Negro training and supply section, will ultimately be taken over by the Manpower board when it is fully organized as will Dr. Will W. Alexander's minority groups division.

At present, neither office is doing any but routine business as it affects the maintenance of the staff and the office. No outside work or additional work is being done.

Although there is no way to predict what will happen in the future, it is pretty well established that Weaver's office is an essential to the successful conduct of the war, since it has been through this office that most of the Negro's labor gains have been made.

Having built a well functioning machine, Weaver's office was prepared to go on with its program and to extend into other fields hitherto untouched and ready for exploitation. This new arrangement, however, makes it imperative that the new officials who will be in the saddle will have to be "educated' just as the past officials were educated to see the Negro's point.

That all of this change is discouraging to the staff as well as to the directors is a foregone conclusion, and the best they can do at the present is to sit tight and await further developments.

That Mr. McNutt will have a Negro member of the Manpower board is regarded here as highly improbable with only one member of the board being outside the government pale—and he is to be a labor man.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

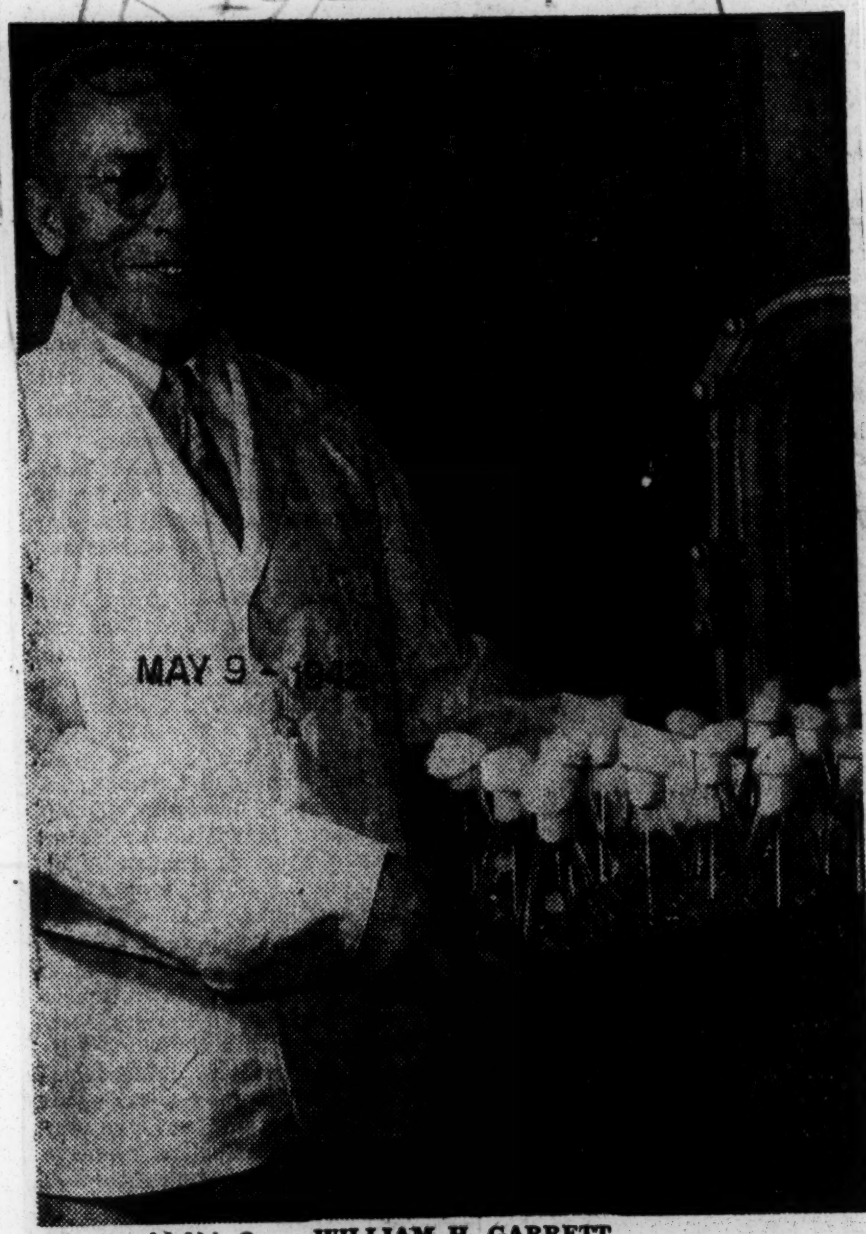
NEW HONORS FOR LESTER WALTON

MAY 1 1942

MONROVIA, — (ANP) — Lester A. Walton, United States Minister to Liberia, now on leave in that country, will remain in his native America for a few months. From sources here close to the government it has been learned that Mr. Walton has been entrusted with a delicate mission by President Roosevelt himself, one which will necessitate his delaying his return here for from four to six months. Minister Walton is said to be in the enviable position of enjoying the complete confidence and respect of America's chief executive, Mr. Roosevelt.

D.C.
Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Retires After 32 Years In U.S. Agriculture Dept.



MAY 9 - 1942

WILLIAM H. GARRETT

MAY 9 - 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Rounding out 32 years in the services of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, William H. Garrett, ranking subprofessional worker in the pathological division of the Bureau of Animal Industry, retired Tuesday.

Almost as agile as on that July day in 1909 when appointed in the bureau, Mr. Garrett busied himself his last day at his post, sterilizing chemical apparatus and assisting bacteriologists in the preparation of tuberculin, a diagnostic agent used in testing cattle for tuberculosis.

Shiny beakers and flasks in the laboratory mirrored his face as he beamed with pride in the small but necessary part he has played in helping to eradicate tuberculosis among cattle.

During the 32 years Garrett has worked in the bureau of animal industry he has seen the control of tuberculosis among cattle extended to every county in the country. The bureau reports that 100 percent of the counties of the United States, Virgin Islands and Porto Rico are now in the modified accredited area which means that tuberculosis among cattle in these areas has been reduced to 0.5 perent or less.

Garrett has also witnessed the development by BAI of an improved synthetic culture medium in the preparation of tuberculin.

In a letter to Garrett upon his retirement, Secretary Claude R. Wickard said, "I wish to take this opportunity to express appreciation on behalf of the department and myself for the many years of service which you have devoted to the department, and to wish you good health and happiness in the years to come. In this the chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry joins me."

MAY 9 - 1942

"Although I am retiring," Garrett said, "I am good for a few more years, and if my country needs me I'll be ready to do whatever I can where it counts most toward defeating the enemy."

R. R. Henley, head of the biochemic laboratory in the pathological division, says Garrett has been an excellent worker. Going further, Henley says he had always taken an unusual interest in his job.

Garrett, a native of Pennsylvania, is married and resides at 2815 Eleventh street, N.W. He and Mrs. Garrett, who is a music teacher, have one daughter, Mrs. Gladys Garrett Greene, a teacher in the District and the wife of Dr. W. H. Greene.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

PATTERSON AND BARNETT ARE CHOSEN

MAR 21 1942

Consult With Secretary Concerning Problems Of Negro Farmer

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Dr. Patterson and Barnett will serve the secretary as consultants and advisers on important problems affecting Negro farmers and their part in the war effort. One of their special functions will be to help insure the integration and full participation of Negro farmers in the food-for-freedom campaign.

MAR 7 1942

The appointments of Barnett and Dr. Patterson mark the first time that members of the Race have been named assistants to the Secretary of Agriculture. In setting this precedent, Secretary Wickard makes agriculture the third executive branch of the government to place Negro Americans in such positions.

Barnett's headquarters will be in Chicago and Dr. Patterson's headquarters will be in Tuskegee. Both will confer with Secretary Wickard from time to time and make recommendations as to methods of assisting Negro farmers in helping to meet the food-for-freedom goals.

They will also work closely with various agricultural bureaus including Extension Service, Farm Security Administration, Agricultural Adjustment Administration and USDA War Boards.

Both Doctor Patterson and Barnett have shown vital interest in the farming industry. The former is president of Tuskegee which places great emphasis on agriculture and the latter, a newspaperman and public relations specialist, is a graduate of Tuskegee and has made special studies of farm problems for the Department of Agriculture.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Charles Houston Is Proposed As Liason Officer

Weaver May Be Placed Under Lawrence Cramer

JUN 9 - 1942

By A. E. WHITE

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—Settling the moot question of who is to be the Negro "top man" once and for all, the proposed enlargement of the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice, which is being widely discussed in certain circles here, hardly meets the 100 percent approval of certain men who have heretofore, been regarded as "close to the President."

Only recently there was considerable commotion and advocacy of a plan whereby a "bureau of Negro affairs" was to have been created a super-over all agency with Lester Walton, minister to Liberia, as the head. This was to have superseded all agencies and to be the liason bureau.

Opponents to this plan, of whom there were plenty, quickly countered in another manner and, according to general reports, submitted through various means the name of Charles Houston to the White House, asking that Mr. Houston be named as an executive secretary at a $10,000 yearly salary. In this post, he would be the liason man between the White House and the Negro group in America.

Further reports are to the effect that the matter was brought up in a recent cabinet meeting where, after a very stormy session, the whole thing was thrown out and all plans submitted for directing the welfare of the Negro thrown into the discard.

Out of this, however, came an idea whereby the CoFEP would be the controlling factor.

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General information circulating through town has it that the committee will be enlarged, taken over by the President's executive office instead of the Manpower board, given a wider range, establish regional offices with increased personnel and a larger budget to do a more effective job. An amendment to Executive Order 8802 is to be expected, giving these powers and increasing the scope of activity of the CoFEP.

This followed, it is believed, a two hour conference at the White House when Lawrence Cramer, executive secretary of the CoFEP and Dr Malcolm MacLean, chairman, visited with the President and discussed the problems.

In this connection, the future of the Weaver organization has been frequently mentioned. Some say it is to be wiped out, others say it is to be annexed by the Manpower board, while there are others who say it is to be a part of the new CoFEP since both are doing practically the same type of work.

It has even been hinted that Dr. Weaver will be placed under Cramer, something to which Dr Weaver himself would object, according to information, although he would receive a boost in salary in so doing.

General fear was expressed that there would be an elimination of the facial relations division of the housing authority, which has been capably administered by Dr. Frank Horne.

Much opposition has developed toward these specialists in government circles, with outsiders accusing some of the workers of seeking personal glory in the posts they are supposed to fill.

Whatever happens, the plans and counter-plans submitted to the White House have served only to strengthen the CoFEP and to make it the dominant factor in the Negro's life in the United States, to the chagrin and disappointment of many smart boys.

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

Recorder May Get Salary Increase

A sub-committee of the Senate District Committee, last week, reported favorably on a bill designed to remove the Recorder of Deeds for the District of Columbia from under the Civil Service Classification Act, 1942 and which would by statute, fix his salary at $8,000 per annum. The bill now goes to the full Senate District Committee for its action.

JUN 30 1942

Bill Explained

The sub-committee, chairmaned by Senator Hughes, (Dem. Del.), with Senator Capper, (Rep. Kans.) as the other member, agreed to report the bill favorably after Frederick S. Weaver, an official in the Recorder's office, explained that the legislation, if enacted, would place the Recorder of Deeds in the same category with other District officials who are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

Weaver emphasized that the Recorder of Deeds serves without tenure, is not required to contribute to the Civil Service Retirement Fund, draws no retirement money when he leaves the service, and yet draws a smaller salary than other District officials who have all such benefits.

JUL 2 1942

Commissioners Opposed

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Good Question

At this point, Senator Capper interposed that he couldn't see how the "Commossioners got into the game." Pointing out that they do not appoint the Recorder, and he is not responsible to them, he expressed concern as to what they had to do with the bill.

The committee was told that there had been no adjustment in the Recorder's salary since 1928, when the office was brought under the Classification Act of 1923, in spite of the fact that the office had grown in point of volumn of business and responsibility since 1928.

The sub-committee brushed aside the contentions of the Committee Counsel, R. F. Camalier, that to give the Recorder a salary raise would mean the repeal of the entire Classification Act.

JUL 31 1942

Civil Service Hit

Senator Hughes declared that he was not so sold on Civil Service and its classifications anyway, and that it would mean the repeal of the entire Act to approve the provisions of the bill.

Mr. Camalier was instructed by the sub-committee to revamp the bill in any way that would affect the desired end.

Daily World
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Chief opponent of the amendment was Sen. George of Georgia.

"Mr. President," said Mr. Thomas at one point in the discussion, "the particular position under discussion happens to be held by an outstanding member of the colored race. The race to which this gentleman belongs constitutes approximately 11,000,000 of the citizens of our republic. That is one-tenth of the total population of the United States and our possessions. He happens to represent in Washington about one-third of the population of this District. I am not urging that as a specific reason for increasing the salary. He is in the classified service. Under his present classification, he receives approximately $6,500. The amendment proposes that his classification be changed, and if changed he would receive approximately $8,000 a year.

PRAISE RECORDS

"He is an outstanding citizen of his race. His appointment comes before the senate for confirmation. As I interpret his position, he is a liason officer between the other peoples of the United States.

"Mr. President, under the circumstances, I cannot afford to withdraw the amendment. It follows precedent. I offered the amendment by request. The request was accompanied by a resolution from the Washington Bar Association."

According to the preliminary procedure, the bill and the attached amendments remained as unfinished business of the senate calendar.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

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Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

NAACP PRESENTS SWORN STATEMENTS OF VOTE DENIAL TO JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

SEP 12 1942

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10—More than 20 sworn statements made by Negroes who, even though they had paid their poll tax to vote in primary elections in the South, were refused permission to do so, have been personally presented to the United States Department of Justice by Thurgood Marshall, special counsel, on behalf of the NAACP.

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Daily-World
Atlanta, Georgia

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SEP 9 - 1942

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The Justice Department at the same time was requested to institute criminal prosecution under the U. S. Civil Rights statute on the ground that election officials who refused qualified Negroes the right to vote, violated this statute.

Dallas and Galveston, Texas, are most fully represented with thirteen affidavits coming from Galveston, six from Dallas. Several were also made from Houston, Tex.; Mobile, Ala.; Little Rock, Ark., and several places in South Carolina.

This marks another step in the Association's years-long fight against the Democratic "white primary" which bars Negroes from choosing the men who will represent them in the Government.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Negro Named To North Carolina Labor Board

AUG 31 1942

Ten months ago when the field director of the National Urban League became identified with the National Organizations Division of the U. S. Treasury and assumed the task of stimulating the sale of War Bonds and Stamps among colored people over the nation, there was not one Negro sustaining official connection with or relationship to the Administrative Staff in any of the states. Very soon after Mr. Thomas had taken the oath of office, he began to communicate with and visit State Administrators and urged them to appoint some Negro who enjoyed the respect and confidence of Negroes, as an Associate State Administrators. As a result the following appointments have been made to date:

AUG 31 1942

For the State of Virginia, Mr William Cooper of Hampton Institute has been appointed by State Administrator Nelson as Associated State Administrator. Administrator Eugene Ely of Mississippi has certified W. W. Blackburn for Associated Administrator of that state. President J. R. E. Lee has been appointed Associated Administrater for the State of Florida. Upon the recommendation of Administrator Walter N. Ruth, Grand Master Willard W. Allen has been certified as Associated Administrator for the State of Maryland. Administrator Melvin Ford of the State of New York appointed Dr. Channing H. Tobias as Associated Administrator for the Empire State. Dr. W. J. Hale has been appointed Associated State Administrator for the State of Tennessee. Dr. Frederick C. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute, was the first Associated Negro Administrator to be appointed. In addition to the above, in the states of New York and Pennsylvania, two Negro Deputy Administrators (Robert Braddocks of New York and Melvin Chisholm of Pennsylvania) on full salary.

AUG 31 1942

Mr. Thomas is negotiating at the moment that another State Administrator for one of the western States in the interest of an appointment of a Negro Deputy Administrator of that state. While representatives of the Treasury give such helpful information as to who he may have as to choice of Negro representative, the final decision is left with the State Administrator.

Efforts are now in progress to have Negroes appointed to corresponding positions for the States of North and South Carolina, Georgia, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

1 Congressman, 2 State Senators, Judge Elected

Nov. 14, 1942

With William L. Dawson elected to succeed Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell as the representative of Illinois' richest Congressional district and Wendell E. Greene, also of Chicago, elected to the Cook County Municipal Court, as reported in last week's TRIBUNE, colored candidates for various posts within the gift of their respective electorates fared well at the November 3 election.

In addition, Illinois and Michigan elected each a colored State Senator, while Illinois and Kansas each elected a County Commissioner.

At least twenty-five colored men were elected to State Legislatures, Pennsylvania leading with six, followed closely by Illinois with 5; New York, Indiana and Ohio, three each; Missouri two, and New Jersey one.

Gets Civil Service Post

An aftermath of the election in Chicago was the resignation of James B. Cashin, an executive of the Robert S. Abbott Publishing Company, from the Chicago Board of Education to accept the Civil Service billet vacated by the election of Judge Green.

"In no quarters were the Democratic losses regarded as any manifestation of a weakening grip of President Roosevelt on the loyalty and support of the American people in the war effort," the Colored Division of the National Democratic Committee said in a release from its Washington headquarters:

Pleased With Dawson

"One grateful result is that the first Congressional district of Illinois, which has had the only colored man in Congress, remained faithfully Democratic by sending William

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Many Negroes Are Swept Into Office

NOV 10 1942

CHICAGO—(ANP)—Although the Republicans swept the state in the Tuesday elections, the Democrats demonstrated through voting returns, that they still have a firm grip on the population of Chicago and Cook county.

Leading the Negro candidates was William L. Dawson, committeeman of the second ward and former alderman from the same district, who won the First Congressional seat vacated by Arthur W. Mitchell. Dawson's entire slate in the ward was also victorious.

Dawson defeated the Republican candidate, William E. King, a former state senator and presently a member of the Illinois industrial commission, for the congressional job by a vote of 29,593 to 23,628.

Wendell E. Green, a member of the city civil service commission, was elected judge of the municipal court. Green's victory marks the first time a Negro has sat on the bench since 1930 when the late Judge Albert B. George, Republican, failed for reelection.

County Commissioner Edward (Mike) Sneed was reelected with a tally of 717,610 votes with the support of the Kelly-Nash machine. O. Stanton DePriest, son of the former congressman for the First district, and J. B. Martin, were defeated in the race.

Democrats also won the contests in the first and third senatorial districts, with Christopher C. Wimbish of the Dawson organization pulling away from the Republican candidate, Benjamin Clanton, by a vote of 18,768 to 16,053.

The vote for the lower house was split with the Democrats yielding two seats to the Republicans. Corneal Davis and Fred J. Smith were the Democratic standard bearers, and Charles J. Jenkins, Ernest A. Greene and William Warfield, incumbents, won

Davis and Smith are new comers to the legislature.

ST. LOUIS ELECTS DEMOCRAT

NOV 10 1942

ST. LOUIS — (ANP) — Edwin Kenswil, a Democrat, was elected to the state legislature last Tuesday, defeating George Carper, a Republican. Kenswil was the only Negro Democrat elected here as the Republicans made huge gains in St. Louis and St. Louis county.

Dr. Dixon, Republican, defeated Bledsoe, Democrat, for justice of the peace; Ellis Jones won over Chambers for constable and Judge Crittenden Clark was reelected justice of the peace.

REV. SANDY R. RAY WINS IN COLUMBUS

NOV 10 1942

COLUMBUS, O.—(ANP) — The successful fight for a seat in the Ohio legislature by the Rev. F. Ray, pastor of the Shiloh Baptist church, marked the first time in more than 30 years that a Negro has been elected to public office in this city. Rev. Ray, who polled 54,477 votes, only 4,567 votes from the head of the ticket, was endorsed by the Franklin County Republican organization and had had the backing of the Vanguard league, the Robert Elliot Law club, the Ministerial allianee, and other civic organizations.

DIGGS REELECTED

DETROIT—(ANP) — State Sen. Charles C. Diggs was elected to serve his fourth term in the Michigan state legislature, beating his opponent on the Republican ticket by some 18,000 votes, possibly the largest vote ever cast in the second senatorial district.

While Negroes are jubilant over the reelection of Sen. Diggs, a spell of gloom fell upon the Democrats when Gov. Murray D. Van Wagoner was defeated and the state again goes Republican. Van Wagoner had done many good things for Negroes.

NOV 10 1942

WISCONSIN GETS FIRST NEGRO

MADISON, Wis.—(ANP) — The lower house of the state assembly here, for the first time in 36 years and the second time in Wisconsin history, will have a Negro member. Cleveland M. Colbert, Republican, former Spanish Civil war aviator, was elected by six votes in Milwaukee's sixth district over Philip Markey, white Progressive: Colbert 1,465; Markey 1,459.

SIX TO PENN LEGISLATURE

PHILADELPHIA—(ANP) — Six colored representatives were elected to the state legislature last week, five Democrats and one Republican. The Rev. D. W. Hoggard (Dem.) begins his first term from the 18th district; Dr. Edwin F. Thompson (Dem.) will begin his third term as representative from the 13th district; Thomas W. Trent (Dem.) will represent the 7th district; John W. Brigerman won over his Republican opponent, the Rev. Clarence M. Smith; and Lewis W. Mintess, the lone Republican victor, will serve his first term from the 6th district.

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In Pittsburgh, Homer S. Brown (Dem.) led the 1st district for state representative by a vote of four to one over his nearest Republican rival, for reelection.

MANY WIN IN INDIANA

INDIANAPOLIS—(ANP) — The only area in the state where the Democratic party held its own, Lake County, elected James Hunter to the state legislature. St. Joseph county, South Bend, also sent a colored man to the legislature, Jesse L. Dickinson.

The voters of Indiana polls elected Dr. Lucian B. Meriweather, Republican, to the city council. Wilbur H. Grant, director of the colored division of the Republican State Central committee, was elected to the state legislature. Mr. Grant, prominent young attorney of Indianapolis, it is reported, is under army orders of the selective service for army duty.

OHIO REPUBLICANS GAIN THREE SEATS IN ASSEMBLY

CLEVELAND—(ANP) — Republicans throughout the state recorded a smashing victory for the party sweeping into office almost the entire ticket, lead by Gov. John W. Brickers. Including three candidates for the legislative assembly. They are the Rev. David Turpeau of Cincinnati; the Rev. Sandy F. Ray of Columbus; and Atty. Chester K. Gillespie of Cleveland.

Atty. Gillespie, a veteran of two terms in the house, was returned to office by a vote upwards of 109,668 in a district where slim hopes were held for a Republican candidate. The lawyer known as a vote-getter and able legislator, captured his seat with a tally far ahead of opposing candidates.

HARLEM SUPPORTS DEWEY

NEW YORK—(ANP) — Harlem showed a decided inclination to break away from the Democratic fold last Tuesday when two out of the three predominatly Negro districts of the city voted for governor. In the same breath the voters nearly upset two of the three Negro Democratic assemblymen, came close to electing its first Negro state senator, and went down the line for Charles Poletti, candidate of the Democratic and American Labor parties for a second term as lieutenant governor who was finally edged out.

Hulan E. Jack won a hands-down victory over his Republican opponent for the assembly, Lassen L. Walsh, with 6,596 votes to 2,344 Jack had the endorsement of the ALP also. Daniel Burrows, encumbent and also party leader of the 19th A. D., was re-elected by the skin of his teeth. Joseph A. Bailey, practically an unknown and lacking in campaign funds, beat Burrows on the straight Democratic ticket but lost out because the latters name appeared on the ALP line of the machine also. The totals were Burrows 5,747; Bailey, 5,031.

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Ludlow Warner, managing editor of the New York Age, making his first bid for public office, gave Charles Perry, white, the closest race he has had for the state senate. The vote is still in dispute. Running as a Republican Werner garnered 14,743 votes to Perry's 15,232.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

REPUBLICANS JOIN WITH DIXIE CLIQUE TO ELIMINATE NEGROES IN ALL FEDERAL OFFICES

FEB 8 - 1942

By ALVIN WHITE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5—(ANP)—Having succeeded in ousting Carmody, Foreman and Straus because of their liberal administrative policies, the Dixie clique in congress aided by certain reactionary Republicans, has further developed its conspiracy to eliminate Negro participation in government by a direct attack upon legislative and administrative provisions against racial discrimination.

To gain this objective, these congressmen have attacked the whole concept of non-discrimination in government and have sought to strike from the budget of federal agencies funds allocated to activities designed to obtain recognition of the needs and utilization of the abilities of minority groups. Entrenched on the powerful appropriations committee of the house of representatives, these Negro-hating congressmen are in position to do incalculable harm to racial progress.

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At Recent Hearing

This issue came sharply to focus during the recent hearings on the Independent Offices appropriation bill for 1943 before the house appropriations sub-committee. Questioning John Edy, executive assistant and budget officer of the Federal Works Agency, Rep. Richard B. Wigglesworth of Massachusetts, Republican member of the committee, asked if the FWA had a racial relations setup. Quickly following up, Rep. Joe Starnes of Alabama asked "Why was that necessary?"

Edy: "It seemed to the administrator to be desirable, in view of the fact there were claims of race discrimination, especially against Negroes, and this racial relations person is a Negro, and a very competent man."

Starnes "Who is he—Weaver?" (Robert C. Weaver).

Edy: "No; his name is Trent." (William J. Trent, Jr.)

Starnes: "What is his background; what organizations has he been affiliated with,"

Edy: "He came from PWA."

J. J. Madigan (executive assistant, Defense Public Works): "He was on our payroll, appointed by the administrator."

Starnes: "He was not with the United States Housing authority?"

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Edy: "Not that I know of."

In the ensuing discussion, Wigglesworth, who led the attack upon both racial relations and labor relations activities, asserted that he did not see why racial relations setups were needed. "We have never had them before; we have always handled it on the American plan," he said.

Starnes: "I think, frankly, instead of handling this proposition they are put in there to promote certain ideas and ideals, and to promote the idea that racial discrimination is being practiced, and they are put in there for a special purpose rather than for the common good. . . . We have fallen into the error, in my judgment, right here on this hill, oftentimes, of some member, probably well intentioned, writing an amendment into the army appropriation bill, or attempting to do it, or to put something in that there will be no discrimination practiced by the army or navy on account of race, creed or color."

James M. Fitzpatrick (Democrat, New York): "You believe in justice to all regardless of race, creed or color?"

Starnes: "Certainly."

Denouncing establishment of racial relations offices, Starnes is reported to have quoted the speech which Weaver delivered before the National Negro congress in April, 1940, when he was special assistant to Administrator Nathan Straus of USHA. Starnes quoted, according to inside information, the following from the Weaver speech:

From Weaver's Speech

"What effect the government's public housing program will have on the problem of residential segregation only time will tell. However, the program has already made an initial demonstration of two important factors involved in this problem; first, that Negro occupancy need not result in depreciation of property, that the Negro is a responsible tenant in a decent home; and second, that the two races can live harmoniously together in the same project, that the Negro can be a good neighbor as well as a good tenant."

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Starnes threatened to bring the whole matter upon the floor of the house, but was dissuaded from doing so after a compromise was reached. This compromise is embodied in the report of Rep. Woodrum (Democrat of Virginia) chairman of the sub-committee.

"While the committee has recommended no decrease in proposed expenditures for the racial relations and labor relations activities," the report reads, "it is of the opinion that the value and necessity of such work is questionable and there should be no further expansion of either of these units."

Part of the scheme of the Dixie Democrats in combatting Negro participation in government is to use northern Republicans from districts sparsely populated by Negroes. Last year they used Rep. Case of South Dakota for this purpose. Wigglesworth is their "fall guy" this year.

Force Out Liberal Administrators

Although the USHA budget got by the house this year unimpaired, it is believed here that the southern clique will continue their efforts to eliminate all sound racial policies by forcing out other liberal administrators and by denying funds to the agencies. Unless friends of the Negro among members of congress are on their toes, this can be done quietly and quickly on the pretense that there is no discrimination under the "American plan."

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In Washington, this conspiracy is viewed with real concern for the future. The ousting of Carmody, Foreman and Straus is held over the heads of all administrators who might desire to be fair. Martin Carpenter of the Social Security board narrowly escaped a similar fate after ordering discontinuance of jim crow regulations in the District of Columbia Employment center.

"In the face of such threats," one national leader commented, "we cannot expect important administrative heads to follow sound racial policies in their agencies unless they have strongly organized support which demands that congressional interference of this sort be halted. Such support will have to come from Negro voters and their friends. They must demand that their congressmen, regardless of party, take steps to scotch this conspiracy."

Wm. W. Allen Appointed $1 A Year Man

The Informer

OCT 3 - 1942

BALTIMORE, Md.—(ANP)—Another Negro was appointed a member of that special class of patriots this week—a dollar-a-year man.

He is William W. Allen, who was notified by D. W. Bell, acting secretary of the United States treasury, that he was named an associate administrator for the state of Maryland on the war savings staff of the treasury.

The appointment specifies in part that Allen is to serve "at the rate of $1 per annum, payable from the appropriation, Expenses of Loans, Act of September 24, 1917, as Amended and Extended and continue for the duration of the national defense program."

OCT 3 - 1942

Greenwood S C Index-Journa
October 28, 1942

"HOW MANY ON PAY ROLL?"

From the News and Courier.

The number of civilian federal officeholders and employes, exclusive of laborers, on the payrolls is now more than 2,500,000, and it would be interesting and instructive if the Northern Democratic congressmen who have voted to repeal the poll tax requirement for voting would tell the number of negroes in the 2,500,000. In ratio to population, the negroes of South Carolina would be entitled to more than 30,000 of these offices, and how many of them are they getting from their white Democratic champions in the White House and on Capitol Hill? Are 1,000 of South Carolina's negroes holding federal offices? The poll tax vote can fool the colored people. They may want to be fooled.

Washington Tribun
Washington, D. C.

Col. Johnson Reappointed to Parole Board

OCT 31 1942

The Board of Commissioners announced this week the appointment of Colonel Campbell C. Johnson to a seven-year term as a member of the three-man Board of Intermediate Sentence and Parole for the District of Columbia.

OCT 31 1942

Succeeded Dr. Scott

Colonel Johnson was appointed three years ago to succeed Dr. Emmett J. Scott, who resigned before his term expired.

The work of Colonel Johnson on the Parole Board has been lauded by social and civic workers, and it was in response to the wishes of the citizens of the District that the Commissioners appointed the Colonel to a full term beginning August 31, 1942.

Colonel Johnson, Executive Secretary of the Twelfth Street YMCA on leave, is currently serving as Executive Assistant to the National Director of the Selective Service System.

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

Houston Says Its Coincidence That Brown Loses Job Before Discovering Party Defects

Edgar G. Brown's desertion of the Democratic party and his criticism of the Roosevelt administration will not change a single Negro vote, other than his own, in the November Congressional elections, Director William L. Houston of the Colored Division of the Democratic National Committee declared.

"The Roosevelt administration needs no defense. The colored people of this country are thoroughly convinced that it has done more for them than any administration in recent history," Mr. Houston said.

"They are better housed, better clothed, and better fed as a result of the social legislation enacted since Mr. Roosevelt has been in the White House.

"Under Republican administrations, from Taft to Hoover, the employment of Negroes in the classified Civil Service grew less and less. The Negro clearical worker became almost extinct. Even in the custodial service Negro applicants were discriminated against.

OCT 17 1942

Roosevelt Changes Practices

"But Mr. Roosevelt changed those practices. He issued an executive order forbidding discrimination in the employment of workers not only in the Federal Government but in war industries as well and directed Government contracting agencies to include in all war contracts negotiated by them a provision obligating the contractor not to discriminate against any worker because of race, creed, color or national origin.

OCT 17 1942

"To implement his executive order he created the Committee on Fair Employment Practices to receive and investigate complaints of discrimination.

"As a result of these actions, thousands of Negroes have been employed by Federal agencies in various categories, and tens of thousands have been employed by industries engaged in war work.

"In the armed forces Republican administrations reduced Negro troops—the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Infantries and the Ninth and Tenth Cavalries—to a menial status. Negroes were restricted to enlistment in the Navy only in the messman branch.

OCT 17 1942

"Those policies have also been changed under the Roosevelt administration. Today, Negro commissioned and enlisted personnel are serving in nearly every branch of the Army. Negroes are now accepted for enlistment for general service in the Navy, the Marine Corps, and the Coast Guard.

Brown Speaks for Himself

"Mr. Brown said he spoke authoritatively as a representative of the Negro people. I say he speaks for no one except himself. Both the National Negro Council and the United Government employees, of which he poses as the head, are paper organizations.

OCT 17 1942

Mr. Brown was on the Federal payroll for several years. His first employment was with the Federal Emergency Relief Administration on September 15, 1934, at a yearly salary of $3,600. He transferred from that agency in 1935 to the Civilian Conservation Corps at a salary of $3,000 and was later promoted to a salary of $3,300 a year.

"While on duty with the CCC, Mr. Brown had as his secretary one of his relatives, who received a yearly salary of $1,440 a year from August, 1940, to June 30, last.

"At present Brown is on terminal leave. At the expiration of his accumulated annual leave, his services end because the CCC is now winding up its affairs, going out of existence by reason of the fact that Congress appropriated no funds for its operation in the current fiscal year. It is a coincidence that he loses his job before he discovers the alleged defects in the Democratic party.

Supreme Court Appointment

"As to his criticism of the appointment of former Associate Justice James F. Byrnes of the United States Supreme Court as director of the Economic Stabilization Board, I may point out that Mr. Byrnes demonstrated while on the Supreme Court bench that he could deal justly with Negroes.

OCT 17 1942

"In the case of Ira Taylor, decided January 12, 1042, Mr. Brynes delivered the opinion of the Court holding a Georgia peonage statute repugnant to the Thirteenth Amendment and an Act of Congress, 1867, passed pursuant to it.

"I now come to Mr. Brown's military service. The fact is the man who describes himself as a veteran of World War I enlisted in the Army in October, 1918, and was discharged in December, 1918.

"Negros of this country have a vital stake in the outcome of the present war. I believe that they can best serve the interest of their country and of themselves by helping to elect in November members of Congress who will support the President's leadership of the war effort."

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

VOICELESS IN CONGRESS

JAN 10 1942

One of the minor American tragedies during the long and hectic period of debate on the great question of isolation or intervention which was answered by Japan at Pearl Harbor, and since that history-making infamy, has been the absence of an intelligent and courageous Negro spokesman in the United States Congress.

There were priceless opportunities for an alert and capable Negro Congressman to express what his people were thinking and to impress their point of view on the outstanding deliberative body in the world today.

There were numerous occasions when a Negro Congressman of intelligence and courage could have insisted that safeguards be placed in legislation against color discrimination and segregation.

A true Negro representative would have kept the fire under the feet of the Administration on the matter of discrimination against Negroes in the armed services and defense industry.

We can picture a fiery and talented Negro Congressman exposing the hypocrisy of maintaining the color bar in the Capital City of a great nation while hurling pronouncements to the world about saving freedom and democracy.

An intelligent representative, knowing that he was a minority of one, could have nevertheless used his position so cleverly in the public good that he would have become better known than LaGuardia, Lafollette, Maverick, Fish, or any of the other able men who have espoused unpopular causes.

JAN 10 1942

What an opportunity this crisis has been and still is for one to persuade, embarrass, compel and shame our government and our nation which he represents, into a more enlightened attitude toward a tenth of its people!

But we have had no worthy representative in Congress.

The 1942 elections offer us a grand opportunity to remedy this defect.

Detroit, New York, Chicago, Philadelphia and perhaps St. Louis can elect Negro Congressmen, with Chicago and Detroit having the best chance.

JAN 10 1942

There are able, courageous and outspoken colored men in both the latter cities who would give us somebody in Congress of whom we could be proud.

Chicago, which has had no real Negro representation in Congress since the time of Oscar DePriest, has a better opportunity than Detroit to elect a colored Congressman. It has done so biennielly since 1928.

The whole Negro group would be indebted to Chicago colored voters if they should awaken from their indifference and elect an able, outstanding, courageous and outspoken man like Earl B. Dickerson, for example.

This is no time for colored America to be voiceless on the floor of Congress.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Suit Charges Pastor's Widow Seized Funds

MAR 15 1942

Church Records Books Also Taken, Members Claim

CHICAGO—(ANP)—A suit filed by representatives of some 250 members of Zion Missionary Baptist church here in superior court charges that since the death of the Rev. William Cosey last November church affairs have been highly irregular.

MAR 15 1942

Specifically the suit declares that the late minister's widow, Mrs. Marion Cosey, has taken over the church records and its money and has boarded up the church windows. To make matters worse, the old line members of the church do not even know how much they owe on the building. They estimate that about $3,000 has been collected to pay for it, but they cannot find out from Mrs. Cosey how much is still due.

The suit also brings in the problem of who is actually pastor. The old line members chose the Rev. Henry Allen Boyd to lead the congregation, but before he could take charge, Mrs. Cosey and her faction installed the Rev. S. E. Tyler. Defendants in the suit include the Trust company of Chicago, Mrs. Cosey, William Howard, Emmett Cosey, Rev. Tyler and Mary Jane Thompson.

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

White Man in Walton Post; Appears Significant Move

LONDON (Censored).—Following the recall of Lester Walton, US minister to the Republic of Liberia, for consultation with the State Department, an American official of the Lisbon consulate has been sent to take Walton's place at Monrovia, while Harold Shantz, also white, has been appointed consul-general at Lagos, Nigeria.

At the same time, it is learned in London, Washington has dispatched Maynard Barnes, recently stationed in Iceland, to Brazzaville, headquarters of Free French Equatorial Africa, under the Negro governor-general, M. Felix Eboue. London diplomatic circles regard these appointments of ace diplomats as meaning that the US expects big developments in Africa.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Some Needed Changes

THE National Bar association is asking that Negroes be appointed to diplomatic posts in the Latin American countries. The association also asks that a colored Assistant Secretary of War be named.

These requests are not only reasonable but they are most vital to the fight that is now being waged against the totalitarian nations. In making these demands President Euclid Louis Taylor of the bar association called attention to the fact that if Negroes are appointed to diplomatic posts in the Latin American countries it would have a wholesome effect upon the citizens of those areas in their attitutde toward the United States.

In the Latin American countries there are some 120,000,000 people. Only 25,000,000 are pure white. The others are people of the colored races, many of whom are Negroes. No prejudice exists there on the ground of color. People in those countries know the attitude that white Americans have for Negroes. They also know the contempt which white Americans have toward all people of darker races.

If America would have those people to change those ideas it can best do so by reversing its policy on things racial. If America would send a colored diplomat to Brazil, where live a large number of Negroes, obviously the Brazillians would hail such a deed as a change in attitude on the part of official Washington. They would certainly take the position that the unwritten axiom of white Americans which condemns by practice that which is dark is perishing in favor of an objective appraisal of men on the basis of merit and ability.

Such a step would be a slap at the Japs. It is the Japanese and the Nazis who are daily sending propaganda in one form or another to the darker people of the world about the way Negroes are treated here. Such a recognition would certainly have a stimulating effect upon the people of India who are weary of the democracy that would be extended to them by England and America when the war is over.

Representation

NEEDED ON POLICY FORMING BOARD OF WAR POWER COMMISSION

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

Pittsburgh Courier

THE TROUBLE with the so-called "Black Cabinet" in Washington is that for the most part they don't have much voice in the policy-forming bodies. The Administration seems liberal enough in giving us an "Advisor to," or a "Negro representative," but, with the exception of the Fair Employment Practices Committee, it has not placed Negroes on policy-forming bodies. Now, I present to them an admirable opportunity to include the Negro in a vital governmental agency rather than an appointment of another Negro to the job of explaining the functions and policies of a new agency to the black multitudes.



Mr. Cayton

I have been impressed recently by the fact that though we represent approximately one-tenth of the population, there were few Negroes in Washington who really were in important positions. The United States Man Power Commission, a new agency which has been set up, would be an excellent place to put a competent Negro. In no other agency, probably, would the advice of a well-trained Negro be more needed. This agency is going to deal with such problems as draft deferments, transportation of war workers, housing in war industrial areas, training of women, general labor training problems, and the location of man power to meet military, industrial, and agricultural demands. This touches on all the vital areas which effect Negro laborers. Further, in these areas, the problems of adjustment are far more difficult with this 10 percent of the population than with any other. If expert advice was ever needed, it is in these fields.

REPRESENTATIVE ON COMMISSION NEEDED

It has been rumored that Dr. Robert Weaver's entire office on Negro training and placement is to be transferred over to this new agency. That's a good move, and Dr. Weaver can continue his effective work in that agency. But the point I am laboring is that this is not enough. In addition to Weaver's department there should be some Negro sitting on the Man Power Commission, itself, helping to form the policies which will control Weaver's department.

THE tension and possibilities for racial clashes arising out of housing in war industrial areas have been demonstrated at the recent Sojourner Truth Housing Project in Detroit, which, incidentally, was miserably and inadequately handled by the United States Housing Authority, as well as by the Detroit Local Housing Authority. That being one of the tasks of the Man Power Commission certainly a Negro should be represented. In that general field, Robert Taylor and Frank Horne function effectively as experts, but I am kicking for Negro participation on the Commission itself which will direct the activities of Taylor in defense housing and of Horne in the USHA.

MANY EXPERTS ARE AVAILABLE

The usual alibi is that there are no capable Negroes for such positions. This time rather than having a dirth of experts we have any number of sociologists, economists, and labor economists who have excelled in their field. Dr. Abram Harris of Howard university has just been appointed guest lecturer in economics at the City College of New York. Harris is the author of "The Black Worker," and "The Negro As A Capitalist." He is an outstanding authority in the fields of economics and labor economics and I don't mean an outstanding "Negro" authority. As the Commission is going to deal with the problem of military, industrial, and agricultural demands, they could hardly pick a better man than Charles S. Johnson of Fisk university.

ANYWAY this is a project for the Negro Press, the NAACP, and all other pressure groups. And we should not forget the labor unions. Phil Murray of the CIO would back such an appointment and perhaps even William Green (now that he is in a tight spot) could be bludgeoned into giving support. Negroes in the United States certainly have furnished a disproportionate share of man power and we deserve representation on any Man Power Commission.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

NOV 14 1942

31 Race Men Win Political Offices

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Although the Republcan ticket won surprising victories at the polls in many Northern states, the great swing to the GOP banner was not evidenced from a tabulation of the offices won by colored candidates. The election returns last week in ten Eastern and midwestern States showed 20 Democrats and 11 Republicans winning important state positions.

A breakdown of the results show 23 members holding seats in the lower houses of the State Legislatures, two members in the upper houses, one municipal court judge, one U. S. Congressman, two county commissioners and one member of City Council.

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One of the most interesting facts unearthed was the campaign put on by colored voters in Orange County in the non-poll tax State of Florida, that swung the county into the Republican column. The campaign was conducted by C. T. Williams and the Oralndo Colored Citizens' club. Their candidates for Congress was, however, defeated by the large majorities polled

52c-1942
Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dawson Takes Mitchell's Place As "Man Of Destiny"

NOV 14 1942

Chicago's Lawyer-Soldier and Former Alderman Claims His Quest for Political Power Was Sought for Good it Would Do His People

By HUGH S. GARDNER
(Staff Correspondent)

NOV 14 1942

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CHICAGO, Ill., Nov. 12—Chicago's rugged, determined, erudite and resolute William L. "Bill" Dawson, lawyer-soldier and a veteran public servant, who has tenaciously withstood the terrible tremors of this city's political earthquakes for more than a quarter century, will be the eighteenth Negro to take a seat in the halls of Congress in January after he is sworn in, and the second Negro sponsored by the Democratic party for that post.

As he succeeds a fellow Democrat, Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell, as representative of the First Congressional District of Illinois his friends, mostly the common people, observe his forward step but an anti-climax in a tough political career, spotted here and there with victories and defeats, because they consider this new position of honor and trust they gave him a place where he can show the entire nation, and even the world, that there is leadership within the ranks of Negroes and this leadership lives for one major purpose—that of uplifting a minority group of 13 million Americans to a place where they may be fully understood and their unfaltering fealty to the nation expressed in the actions of their leader.

BORN IN ALBANY

This new man of destiny was born in Albany, Ga., 56 years ago. After some preliminary schooling there he arrived in Chicago in 1906.

His political career actually began in 1912 when he was elected president of the Cook County Colored Democrats. Later he managed part of the campaign which resulted in the late Gov. Henry Horner being elected to the probate judgeship, a position which Judge Horner held for many years.

In the true and unhesitating American fashion Dawson answered his country's call in 1917 and saw action overseas where he was gassed and wounded as first lieutenant in the 365th Infantry, which was in the thick of the fight at Meuse-Argonne, and Vosges mountain sectors.

Once back from France and re-establishing himself in civilian life Dawson completed his law course at Northwestern university and Kent college of law and hung out his shingle in 1920. The following year he married Miss Nellie Brown and to that union was born a boy, William L. Jr., and Barbara Ann, both college students now. The family home is located at 534 E. 42nd street.

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LIKED HIS PROFESSION

Attorney Dawson finely equipped found the practice of law to his advantage financially and much to his liking as a vocation, as the years passed that burning desire within him was growing larger—that desire to gain political power for his people so that they might enjoy more of the democracy than heretofore.

"I didn't enter politics to make money. Such a move on my part was a very decided financial sacrifice," Mr. Dawson told your reporter during an interview last week. "I've always wanted political power since I fully realized what it actually was. I wanted to use that strength for the progress of my people, and you can tell the world as many times as you see fit that the power I have now I received from the little people, so to speak, the common people, and it is for them that I shall use it."

OPPOSED MADDEN IN '28

Running for Congress is nothing new to "Bill" Dawson now. Back in 1928 he had the audacity, as even some Negro politicians put it, to oppose Martin B. Madden, a white man, who had represented the district for many many years without even campaigning for it. Dawson opposed him and lost. He set a precedent, however.

Eleven days after Dawson's defeat at the hands of Madden, Madden died and Oscar DePriest was named a candidate by the Cook County Republican Central Committee.

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Later Dawson served in the city council as alderman of the Second ward from 1933 to 1939. He was still a Republican and claims that he never felt the real evidence of his actual political strength until he met defeat in the three-cornered non-partisan race for alderman with the present Second ward Alderman Earl B. Dickerson and William E. King.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

MR. DAWSON

NEW CONGRESSMAN BRINGS A RECORD OF UNCEASING COURAGE AND UNFALTERING ENERGY IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS TO THE CAPITAL

BY JOSEPH D. BIBB

Nov. 21, 1942

WHEN William L. Dawson takes his seat in the Congress of the United States in January, he will be the eighteenth known and recognized member of the colored race so honored. Dawson, a graduate of Fisk University and the Northwestern University Law schools, brings with him, an experience of richness and color. For more than thirty years he has been an important factor in the public and political life of his people in Illinois.



Mr. Bibb

Congressman Dawson has served for six years as a member of the powerful City Council of Chicago where municipal legislation affecting more than four million people has been considered. Here Congressman Dawson received legislative experience of a high order. He has been long recognized as a splendid organizer and a diplomat capable of handling puzzling problems with tact and sound judgment.

CHALLENGED MADDEN

Both friend and foe concede the new Congressman to be a man of strong will, with an almost inexhaustible supply of energy. Congressman Dawson is no timorous, shrinking violet. His public career discloses that for many years he has been a stormy contender for the things he believed in. He pitted himself against the late Martin B. Madden, a gentleman of the white race, who, for immemorable years, represented the First Congressional District of Illinois, even tho the colored vote predominated.

DAWSON challenged Madden personally but was defeated with the hue and cry of limp-backed colored leaders who acclaimed that the time was not right for a colored man. Dawson ran against Congressman Madden in 1928 but when death struck down the white-haired solon, shortly afterwards, Congressman De Priest was named to fill out the unexpired term.

STATES POSITION IN STRONG TERMS

Despite a serious physical accident that threatened for a time to wreck his career, Dawson fought on even though for a long time he was compelled to carry on his combat from a wheel chair. He challenged Congressman Mitchell's seat in the House in 1938, then running on the Republican ticket. But in 1940, Congressman Dawson renounced his Republican affiliations, declaring that he had lost faith in many of the local Republican leaders. In proclaiming himself a Democrat, he said, "I have changed my political affiliations because I consider the forward-looking policies of the New Deal as expressed by President Rooseyelt to be for the interests of my people."

CONGRESSMAN-ELECT Dawson in a concise and succinct statement to this correspondent declared: "I go to Washington to fight our way so that we might enjoy a freer and fuller life. Our nation is at war, and our enemies are to be found within as well as without. As your Congressman, I shall fight un-Americanism where ever it is found." "Those who lynch, murder and maim citizens within the nation are second only to those who would destroy the nation itself. I shall oppose them with every atom of my strength. I shall not rest until the protection of the life and liberty of every citizen becomes the responsibility of the national government. I shall fight for the right to vote. The right to work is the right to live. I shall labor with all my God-given talents to the end that no person shall be discriminated against in his right to live and work by reason of race, color or religion." In the measured and considered judgment of this writer, Mr. Dawson goes to Washington with his feet planted firmly on the ground.

GRAVE RESPONSIBILITY FACES DAWSON

A Herculean task and a responsible duty faces the "gentleman from Illinois." The battle for Democracy continues at home apace with the battle across the seas. Southern representatives remain arbitary and adamant in their attitudes toward us. Lynchings run rampant and unchecked. Discriminations in war and work abound. The Democrats maintain only a slight edge in voting strength in the House of Representatives. Congressman Dawson's vote will be of inestimable value. It can well be used in advancing the cause of all minority groups. It can be used to prevent insipid legislation and it can be used with the skill that long legislative experience has taught our Congressman.

DAWSON goes to Washington with the hope of all the people with him. Party policies have nothing to do with the hopes and prayers of a down-trodden minority. Dawson goes to Wasington as the representative of all the colored people of this land and perhaps as the hope of countless thousand in hither regions. He will be the cynosure of myriad millions. He goes there in the full realization that the interest of the people are in a large measure in his hands. This writer, who has known the new Congressman for nearly 25 years, firmly believes that in William L. Dawson, the people have elected a man who is highly capable of perceiving and performing his duties with diplomacy, courage and despatch.

Our Hearts Go With Mr. Dawson as he Goes To Washington.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Dawson To Succeed Mitchell

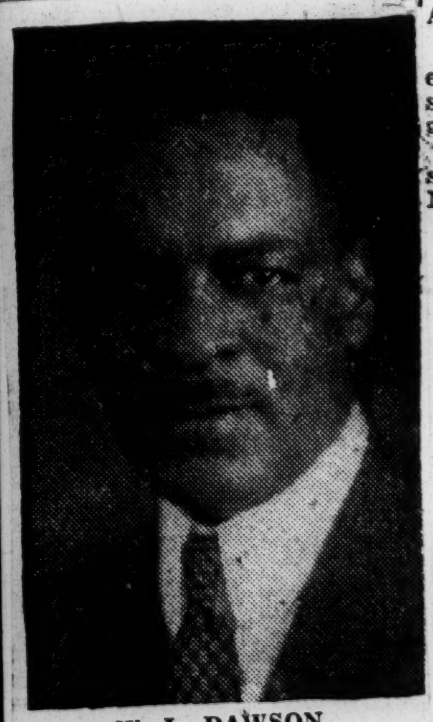
NOV 14 1942

Homer S. Brown Is Returned To Pa. Legislature

NOV 14 1942

CHICAGO, Ill. — (ANP) — Chicago voters who refused to join a rush to the Republican ranks in Tuesday's balloting, elected William L. Dawson, Democratic committeeman from Chicago's Second Ward and former city council, as Congressman from the First Illinois District as the highlight of the elections for Negro Americans. Mr. Dawson, who succeeds Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell, who was not a candidate for reelection, defeated William King, Republican, a member of the Illinois State Senate for many years.

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W. L. DAWSON

The new congressman, who resides with his wife and two children at 534 East 42nd street, is a practicing attorney here and is a veteran of World War No. 1 in which he held the rank of first lieutenant. Mr. Dawson also opposed Congressman Mitchell in the 1938 Congressional elections, as a Republican, but was defeated.

ELECTED JUDGE

In another significant contest Wendell Green was elected a municipal judge here, as the Democratic slate of twelve candidates shut out the Republican candidates for the bench, including Patrick Prescott.

Edward M. Sneed, Democrat, was reelected a member of the Cook county board of commissioners defeating J. B. Martin and Osca DePriest, Jr., son of the former Republican congressman from the First Illinois District.

Christopher Wimbush, Democrat, was elected to the Illinois State Senate from the Third Senatorial District, and five assemblymen were elected to the Illinois legislature, including: Ernest A. Greene, Charles J. Jenkins, and William Warfield, incumbent Republicans, and Corneal A. Davis from the First District and Fred J. Smith, of the 3rd District. Both of the latter are Democrats.

ABOUT THE WINNERS

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Senator Wimbush received his early training at Atlanta University, Atlanta, Ga., and later was graduated from Howard and Northwestern universities. He resides with his wife at 4203 South Michigan avenue.

Commissioner Sneed is the Democratic committeeman from the Third ward and lives with his wife and son at 5413 South Wabash avenue. Representative Smith, a Tennessean by birth, received his early training at the Tennessee Christian Institute, and Roger Williams and Fisk universities. He is a deputy municipal court clerk here.

A veteran of World War No. 1, Mr. Davis is married and lives with his wife and daughter at 3223 South Calumet avenue.

Other significant election results by states were as follows:

KANSAS

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Kansas City—Thad White was elected county commissioner of Wyandotte county on Tuesday, defeating Frank Brown, white Democrat. In late returns William Powers was reelected to the Kansas State Legislature.

There are three commissioners, one elected each four years. With White's elections from the second district, the Republicans gained the majority of two members. The two members of the commission with whom White will serve are L. H. Holcomb, Democrat, and Roy Wheat, Republican. Both are white.

White was elected for a four-year term with salary of $3,600 a year. He is the first Negro ever to be elected to this important post. He is captain of No. 5 fire company of Kansas City, Kas., having been with the fire department for 30 years, 14 of them as captain.

In the contest for representative from the eighth district to the state legislature, William H. Towers, Republican incumbent, defeated Cordell D. Meeks, Democrat, by 1,000 votes.

In Kansas City both Negro candidates lost to their white opponents. T. B. Watkins, undertaker, Republican candidate for legislator from the fourth legislative district, was defeated by Thomas J. Gill, Democratic incumbent by 604 votes. The final count was Gill, 6,306; Watkins, 5,702.

L. Amasa Knox, attorney, Republican candidate for justice of the peace in the sixth district, was defeated by Henry McKissick Democrat. The complete returns give McKissick 2,894 votes to 1,303 for Knox.

peau of Cincinnati.

MISSOURI

ST. LOUIS — Edwin Kenswill, Democrat, defeated George Carper, Republican, for a place in the State Legislature. Doctor Dixon, Republican, defeated Frank Bledsoe, Democrat, for justice of the peace. Ellis Jones, Republican, won over Chambers, Democratic candidate for the office of constable. Judge Crittenden Clark, Republican, was reelected justice of the peace.

PENNSYLVANIA

PITTSBURGH — Homer S. Brown, Democrat, was reelected to the Pennsylvania State Legislature. Dr. Lucian B. Merriwether, Republican, won a seat on the city council.

INDIANA

INDIANAPOLIS — Wilbur H. Grant, Republican, was elected to the Indiana State Legislature in Tuesday's election. Mr. Grant, a practicing attorney here, is under orders of his Selective Service Board to report for induction into the Army. James Hunter, Democrat, East Chicago, and Jesse L. Dickinson of South Bend, both were elected to the State Legislature.

OHIO

COLUMBUS — Three Negroes were elected to the Ohio Legislature as a result of Tuesday's elections. They were: Chester K. Gillespie of Cleveland; Sandy F. Ray of Columbus, and David Tur-

MICHIGAN

Detroit State Sen. Charles C. Diggs was elected to serve his fourth term in the Michigan state legislature, beating his opponent on the Republican ticket by some 18,000 votes, possibly the largest vote ever cast in the second senatorial district.

While Negroes are jubilant over the reelection of Sen. Diggs, a spell of gloom fell upon the Democrats when Gov. Murray D. Van Wagener was defeated and the state again goes Republican.

WISCONSIN

Madison, the lower house of the state assembly here, for the first time in 36 years and the second time in Wisconsin history, will have a Negro member. Cleveland M. Colbert, Republican, former Spanish Civil War aviator, was elected by six votes in Milwaukee's sixth district over Philip Markey, white Progressive: Colbert 1,465; Markey 1,459.

The sixth assembly which returned Colbert is a mid-city district with a large Negro population.

Colbert, who won his nomination over three Negroes and a white competitor in the primary election, was described by Winter Everett, associate editor and columnist of the Wisconsin State Journal, as "a man of parts who made a good impression on both white and Negro voters in his campaign speeches. Colbert, a man of sonsiderable education with a pleasing personality, has been a Milwaukee resident for some 10 years and served as an aviator in the Republican army of the Spanish revolution."

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia, six colored representatives were elected to the state legislature last week, five Democrats and one Republican. The Rev. D. W. Hoggard (Dem.) begins his first term from the 18th district; Dr. Edwin F. Thompson (Dem.) will begin his third term as representative from the 13th district; Thomas W. Trent, (Dem.) will represent the 7th district; John W. Brigerman won over his Republican opponent, the Rev. Clarence M. Smith; and Lewis W. Mintess, the lone Republican victor, will serve his first term from the 6th district.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Denies Prescott Seat As Judge

JAN 3 - 1942

Relying on an opinion rendered from a private source, Chief Justice Edward S. Scheffler of the Chicago municipal court refused last Friday to recognize Gov. Dwight Green's appointment of Atty. Patrick B. Prescott, Jr., as an associate judge of that court.

The action of the chief justice came fourteen days after Attorney Prescott had presented his credentials asking that he be assigned a courtroom and given a calendar of cases. Attorney Prescott was given his commission under date of Dec. 10, 1941, and on the twelfth of the month appeared in Chief Justice Svheffler's office for assignment.

Questions Move

When the governor appointed Attorney Prescott the chief justice immediately announced that he questioned the validity of the commission and would seek legal opinion regarding it. His action last Friday was based on a legal opinion, covering nne pages, written by Attorney Joseph B. Fleming, president of Mayor Kelly's public library board, and a prominent figure in one of the largest law firms ini the Middle West. The opinion, requested from Attorney Fleming by the chief justice, held that the vacancy to which the governor sought to appoint Attorney Prescott, was for more than one year and that, for that reason, the governor was without authority.

JAN 3 - 1942

Just why the chief justice dodged the legal machinery set up for handling such questions by the city and state—the corporation counsel and the attorney general—and went on the outside to get an opinion from personal sources has caused many to believe that he has injected politics into the matter. Attorney Fleming and Chief Justice Scheffler are Democrats; Governor Green and Attorney Prescott are Republicans.

It was also noted that the chief justice played the game of "hide-and-seek" with Attorney Prescott from the time he first presented his commission on December 12. Thereafter, he could not be contacted, but was finally heard from when he sent a photostatic copy of Attorney Fleming's opinion to Attorney Prescott's office.

Prescott To Act

Attorney Prescott immediately announced that he will begin mandamus proceedings to compel recognition of Governor Green's commission. He also emphatically contended that Chief Justice Scheffler had no authority to go behind that commission.

JAN 3 - 1942

"Mr. Fleming, an able lawyer," said Attorney Prescott, "was not asked to say whether Judge Scheffler had the power to pass upon my commission which was issued by Secretary of State Hughes and signed by Governor Green. That commission made up by Secretary Hughes, a Democrat, certifies on its face that Judge Scheffler resigned December 10, 1941. The commission runs to December 7, 1942. Clearly on its face the term is for less than a year. Judge Scheffler has no more power to go back of a governor's commission than Tom Thumb or Dumbo.

"Since when has a municipal judge grown greater than the governor and the secretary of state? If he can keep me out he can keep any municipal court judge out. The only lawful procedure is to seat me and make a test by quo warranto. Judge Scheffler is doing as an individual what the whole municipal court of thirty-six judges could not do as court because only the circuit and superior courts could hear such a case. After all, the people of Illinois will remember that Governor Green and Secretary of State Hughes are not as stupid as Judge Scheffler would seem to indicate and that they had pretty good legal advice too. Make no mistake, he will be promptly mandamused in order to defend the integrity of the courts and the sound judgment and honor of Governor Green and Secretary Hughes.

JAN 3 - 1942

Scheffler Resigns

On Dec. 10 Gov. Green announced the appointment of Attorney Prescott to the seat of associate judge formerly held by Scheffler, who was elected chief justice on Nov. 4. The governor had not acknowledged Scheffler's resignation until the date of Dec. 10, a fact that, it was contended, reduced the vacancy term to less than one year and thereby brought it within the governor's appointing power under the state constitution. Otherwise the vacancy would have to be filled at the next general election.

The point of the opinion by Attorney Fleming, one of the leaders of the Democratic organization in Illinois, was that the Scheffler seat as associate judge of the Municipal court was vacated automatically when Scheffler was elected chief justice, an "incompatible" office, on Nov. 4 and that therefore the vacancy was created on Nov. 5, making it run for over a year.

Facts set forth in the Fleming opinion were that Scheffler submitted his resignation to Gov. Green "as of November 5th" and that his name was certified to the municipal court pay roll as chief justice on the same date and that his commission as chief justice from the governor was dated Nov. 18, all prior to Dec. 10 when the governor accepted the resignation and appointed Attorney Prescott.

"Your resignation was effected by operation of law," read the opinion. "No acceptance by Gov. Green of any written resignation was necessary.

Scheffler Comments

In a statement announcing his decision, Chief Justice Scheffler said it was necessary for him to inquire into the legality of the appointment so that the administration of justice might no be impaired.

"The assignment by me of one whose appointment as a judge is subject to serious question, might lead to great uncertainty and confusion in the administration of justice in this court. Judgments that would be rendered by such individuals acting as a judge might be unenforceable. Lawyers would hesitate and even refuse to try their cases before him. A serious question would inevitably arise as to the legality of any salary paid him. These and other questions induced me to refer the matter to Attorney Joseph Fleming for an opinion. He has submitted that opinion, and after careful consideration thereof, I have come to the conclusion that I have no alternative but to refuse to assign Attorney Prescott as a judge of the Municipal court of Chicago. This decision is based solely upon legal considerations and carries with it no reflection whatsoever upon Attorney Prescott, who is generally recognized as an able and honorable lawyer."

Had Attorney Prescott been seated his term as judge would expire December 7, 1942.

Under the State law, if an unexpired term has more than a year to run, it must be filled by election, not by appointment. Scheffler contends that on December 10, Governor Green announced the appointment to the seat of associate judge formerly held by Scheffler, who was elected chief justice on November 4, and that a vacancy was automatically created when he took over the office of chief justice. He further says that he took the oath of office on November 10, and his resignation as associate judge on November 4 was effected by operation of law and no acceptance by Governor Green of any written resignation was necessary.

Attorney Prescott announced immediately that mandamus proceedings to compel recognition of the governor's commission would be begun. The attorney holds that the term begins December 5, 1941, and expires a year later, it beginning with the acceptance of Scheffler's resignation by Governor Green.

JAN 3 - 1942

Scheffler issued a statement that "In view of the question involved, an assignment to Mr. Prescott might lead to great uncertainty and confusion, with doubt as to the validity of judgments which might be rendered. Lawyers would refuse to try cases before a tribunal whose authority was thus questioned. There would also be a question as to payment of salary to Mr. Prescott.

"I have come to the conclusion that I have no alternative but to refuse to assign Attorney Prescott as a judge of the Municipal Court of Chicago."

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Refuses Oath To Prescott As Chicago Judge

JAN 3 - 1942

Chief Justice of Court Contend Appointed By Governor Invalid

JAN 3 - 1942

CHICAGO. — Recognition of Gov. Dwight H. Green's appointment of Patrick B. Prescott, Jr., well-known Chicago attorney, as an associate judge of the Chicago Municipal Court was refused last Saturday, when Chief Justice Edward S. Scheffler held that the appointment was not valid.

The chief justice's action was based on legal opinion written by Attorney Joseph B. Fleming, president of Mayor Kelly's Public Library board, to whom the chief justice went for advice. According to the opinion, the vacancy to which the governor sought to appoint was for more than a year and, for that reason, the governor was without authority.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

THE PRESCOTT CASE

The refusal of Chief Justice Edward S. Scheffler of the Chicago Municipal court to seat Judge Patrick B. Prescott Jr., recently appointed by Gov. Dwight H. Green, raises a number of questions:

1. Are the objections to Judge Prescott grounded in politics or legal precedents?

2. Has Judge Scheffler the power to override the governor's commission?

3. Why the legal opinion of the corporation counsel or the attorney general was not sought in the case?

Following the opinion of a private law firm from which he sought advice, Judge Scheffler contends that the governor was without authority to appoint Judge Prescott to a vacancy, the term of which runs for more than one year. Secretary of State Edward J. Hughes, however, testifies that Judge Scheffler resigned December 10, 1941. The commission signed by Governor Green runs to December 7, 1942. Certainly it requires no involved arithmetic to determine that the term of this commission is for less than one year.

Technical objections of this sort have not been raised to a score of judges in the past 20 years. It is apparent that if the issue were purely legalistic and devoid of racial or political bias, a precedent should have been established long ago in the case of one judge whose term might have been technically questioned.

Consensus of legal opinion is to the effect that the governor's authority can be tested only in the Circuit or Superior court after Judge Prescott has been seated. Judge Scheffler is, therefore, exceeding the bounds of his authority when he refuses to honor the governor's signed commission. For, he is only a municipal judge whose court has no jurisdiction over this sort of case.

His failure to avail himself of the existing legal machinery for an opinion, compels us to impugn both the motive and the propriety of his action. No matter how voluminous or eloquent may be his explanation, the conclusion is inescapable that racial or personal bias dictated his decision.

Judge Prescott should be seated according to law and any legal disputes settled by quo warranto after he is assigned his duties. Violating due process of law is not the American way. Judge Scheffler should know this. If he does and ignores his duties, and arrogates authority a la Hitler, then he is not worthy of his office. If he does not know it then he is sadly lacking in judicial equipment.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Prescott Loses His Suit For 'Chi' Judgeship

Supreme Court Says Appointment Was Invalid

CHICAGO—(ANP)—Atty. Patrick B. Prescott Jr., lost his suit for assignment to the municipal court bench when the Illinois supreme court ruled Wednesday that Gov. Green's appointment of the barrister, a Republican nominee in the coming November election, was invalid.

Mr. Prescott was named to fill a vacancy created last November 4 when Judge Edward S. Scheffler was elevated to chief justice of the municipal court. He was refused an assignment however on the ground that the appointment was illegal.

The supreme court in its opinion stated that such an appointment could be made for only a year or less and since this vacancy ran from Nov. 4, 1941, to Dec. 6, 1942, it was therefore invalid.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

High Court Denies Bench To Prescott

The Illinois supreme court on Wednesday ruled that Gov. Dwight H. Green had gone beyond the pale of his vested authority in appointing Atty. Patrick B. Prescott Jr., as associate judge of the Chicago municipal court in December of 1941.

The court rendered this decision after citing that such an appointment could be made only for a period of a year or less, and that since the vacancy in question ran from November 4, 1941 to December 6, 1942, Governor Green's action was invalid.

Attorney Prescott was named by the governor to fill a vacancy created November 4, of 1941 when Judge Edward S. Scheffler was elevated to chief justice of the municipal court.

Governor Green had contended that since Judge Scheffler's term had not actually expired until December 6, the vacancy, calculating from date of the acceptance of the resignation, was one of less than a year.

Counsel for Attorney Prescott is expected to move for a rehearing of the case.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dawson Succeeds Mitchell In House

CHICAGO, Ill. — The national House of Representatives will have another colored Democratic member on January 1, 1943, consequent on the election of William L. Dawson to succeed retiring Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell, of the 1st Congressional District.

Incomplete returns give Dawson a comfortable lead over his Republican opponent, State Senator William E. King.

Colored Judge

Wendell E. Green, member of the Civil Service Commission, was elected Municipal Court Judge, defeating Patrick B. Prescott.

Ex-Philadelphian Wins

Of interest to Philadelphians is the candidacy of C. C. Wimbush, formerly of that city, who is practically assured of election to the Illinois State Senate, on the basis of incomplete returns.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Have Made No Effort To Find Out, He Charges

Congressmen Has Remarks Inserted In House Record

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—Taking time out to enter Westbrook Pegler's favorable article on the Negro in the Congressional Record, Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell on Tuesday declared that the southern white man knew nothing about the Negro despite protestations to the contrary.

Said the congressman:

"Since I have been a member of congress, I have been approached by hundreds of outstanding men ond women of the south, practically every one of whom professes to know the Negro of the south. I have had leaders of the white race even argue with me that they knew the Negro better than I do Is this true? My answer is emphatically 'No!' White people especially of the south have made no particular effort to know the Negro in his higher aspirations and home life.

"How many outstanding white leaders have ever spent as long as five minutes in a respectable Negro home? How many of them have ever visited the Negro churches and Negro schools? How many of them have engaged thinking Negroes in earnest conversation in an effort to become acquainted with the Negro in his higher aspirations and real life?

"Of course they know the Negro who frequents the police courts. They know the Negro who works in their kitchen and does the menial work around their homes, but do they know Negro lawyers, Negro physicians, Negro businessmen, Negro editors, Negro college presidents, Negro teachers and social leaders, Negro ministers of the higher type? They do not and they make no serious effort to know them."

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

NEGROES ASSAIL KELLY-NASH DEAL ON SCHOOL BOARD

Plan to Name Walker Scored by Leaders.

The Kelly-Nash machine was assailed by Negro leaders yesterday for attempting a deal to restore Irwin N. Walker, beaten machine congressional candidate, as a member of the board of education, depriving the colored population of representation in school affairs.

Edgar G. Brown, director the National Negro council, told listeners at a massmeeting in the Olivet Baptist church, 3101 South Parkway, that the deal was bared last Thursday when Mayor Kelly obtained the resignation of Attorney James B. Cashin, Negro member of the board, and appointed him to the city civil service commission. Walker, defeated in the 9th congressional district race by Rep. Charles S. Dewey, Republican, is slated to take Cashin's place, Brown asserted.

Silence Protests.

"This nefarious deal is being worked by the Kelly-Nash machine to deprive us of representation on the board and silence our protests of half day school for Negro children," Brown said.

Two resolutions relating to the school board were adopted. One directed Mayor Kelly to name a Negro as Cashin's successor; the other recommended the appointment of Mrs. Irene Gains, president of the Federal Colored Womens' clubs and president of the Council of Negro organizations.

Plan Fund Campaign.

Postelection demands contained in a 10 point program launched by the National Negro council to end racial discrimination were ratified at the meeting. To finance the program, Brown said the council will raise $100,000 thruout the country. Chicago's quota is $10,000.

Rent adjustments in Chicago and other populous areas, anti-lynching legislation by congress, and Negro representation on all rationing boards, were listed on the program.

52c-1942

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

ILLINOIS

2 Seek Congressional Post Of Rep. Mitchell

FEB 7 - 1942

By ASSOCIATED NEGRO PRESS

Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell will not run for Congress this year from Chicago's famous first district.

The gray haired lawyer who has won fame as the second Negro to hold a seat in congress since the reconstruction era, and who has been known as one of the stalwarts of the Democratic party, announced his retirement in a telegram to Chicago associates Tuesday.

Mitchell, who has been in office since 1935, said he was retiring because there are "important things outside of congress for me to do."

The Associated Negro Press reported a year ago that Mitchell would not be a candidate to succeed himself. It also reported that Mitchell, who has built a beautiful country mansion near Petersburg, Va., had ambitions to be the first Negro elected to congress from the South since reconstruction days.

The district which he has chosen for his future home is the same district which sent John M. Langston, one of the first Negro congressmen, to Washington. There are plenty of Negro votes in the district to duplicate that feat if they can be rallied and induced to register and pay their poll tax.

Over the years they have become careless but Mitchell has been speaking frequently in the district and with the aid of a poll tax league headed by Dr. Luther Jackson of Virginia State college, hopes to develop an interest in voting among the Negroes there.

Congressman Mitchell kept his peace until now, like the astute politician that he is. He cast his mantle in the direction of Atty. William L. Dawson, Democratic committeeman of the Second ward, leader of the political organization which constantly carried Mitchell to victory after the defeat of DePriest and the change of the area from a Republican tronghold to a Democratic one.

FEB 7 - 1942

Dawson, with Mitchell clearly out of the running, immediately announced his candidacy for the Democratic Congressional nomination and is generally conceded to have the best opportunity for success. Dawson is an able lawyer, a former alderman of the second ward and a skillful political fighter.

It is understood he will have the support of Mayor Kelly and the formidable Democratic machine. Friends and foes agree that Dawson would make a strong and fearless congressman.

On the other hand, popular and able Earl B. Dickerson, the present alderman from the second ward whom people all over the country have been pointing to as an ideal candidate for the post of congressman, announced his candidacy at a meeting last Saturday afternoon, called to draft him.

A committee from that meeting later went down to call upon Mayor Edward Kelly to ask his support for Dickerson.

FEB 7 - 1942

At the time Dickerson announced his candidacy it was still assumed officially that Mitchell would run. The Mitchell announcement came like a bombshell to those who had disregarded the ANP announcement 12 months before.

Dickerson has not made a final decision. Brilliant lawyer and speaker, who has won new laurels as an active member of the President's Fair Employment Practice committee; active in civic affairs and widely known nationally, many of his friends feel he would be making a mistake to go up against the formidable organization headed by Dawson.

It is reported that the Democrats plan to place a Negro upon the judicial slate this year and that Mayor Kelly is hesitating before picking his candidate for the judgeship.

FEB 7 - 19

Reports are that if Dickerson is willing to abandon his congressional ambitions and take the judgeship, a six year post paying $10,000 a year, that he can have the place on the ticket.

The alternative would be the slim chance of beating the Dawson machine which now is at the peak of its strength. Dickerson and Dawson held a conference Wednesday but made no announcement of their decision—if any.

The primaries are this spring, but the decision as to who will fight it out for nomination must be made soon.

FEB 7 - 1942

On the Republican side of the congressional battle, Industrial Commissioner William E. King is conceded the votes of the regular Republican machine. King is committeeman in the second ward. Editor Jacob Tipper, who heads the Denee faction of the Republican party, is importuning Col. Roscoe Conkling Simmons to oppose Mr. King in the primaries.

There may be other candidates on the Republican ticket but unless some sort of a miracle happens, it is felt that the district is too strongly democratic in an off year election for the GOP to beat the powerful democratic machine.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Name Cashin Member Of Chicago School Board

AUG 22 1942

Atty. James B. Cashin's name was submitted Wednesday to the City Council by Mayor Edward Kelly to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Dr. M. O. Bousfield, first Negro to be appointed to the Chicago Board of Education.

Dr. Bousfield is now lieutenant colonel of the all-Negro medical unit attached to the military reservation at Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

After paying high tribute to the moral fitness and educational background of Attorney Cashin, Ald Benjamin Grant, member of the council's schools committee, seconded Ald. A. H. Cohen's motion to suspend the rules in order that Attorney Cashin's appointment to the board might be confirmed immediately by the council.

However, in order to be in strict conformity with a recent ruling introduced in the council by former Alderman Paul Douglas before he joined the U. S. marine corps, Mayor Kelly agreed to refer this appointment and all other recommendations to the council's schools committee which is expected to approve them in a few days.

AUG 22 1942

Cashin Is Popular

Attorney Cashin has long been a legal figure in Chicago where he has enjoyed an enviable reputation before the courts. His nomination by Mayor Kelly met with instant enthusiastic approval of the South side where Mr. Cashin is extremely popular and where, according to impartial observers, he enjoys the respect and confidence of the people.

Attorney Cashin is one of six children of a family which has in it a physician, a dentist, a lawyer, a college professor, and two school teachers, all of whom are college graduates.

He received his collegiate training and bachelor of arts degree at Fisk university. He studied law at the University of Michigan and obtained his law degree from the Chicago Kent College of Law.

He is a veteran of the first World War and served for many years as captain and regimental adjutant of the Eighth Infantry Regiment of the Illinois National Guard.

Civic and Fraternal Leader

He is a trustee of Fisk university and chairman of the board of directors of the Robert S. Abbott Publishing company, and holds membership in a number of nationally recognized social, professional and fraternal organizations.

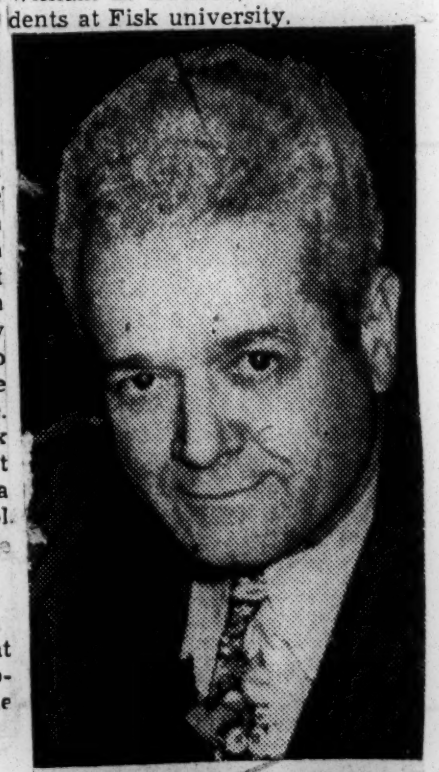
He has served two terms as president of the Cook County Bar association and six consecutive terms as chief ranger of the American Order of Foresters.

AUG 22 1942

He is married and lives with his wife who is an Oberlin college graduate and the daughter of the late Dr. J. H. Fears of South Bend, Ind. They have a baby son, James B. Cashin Jr.

Ald. Earl B. Dickerson, who was for five years Attorney Cashin's law partner, was eloquent in his appraisal of Cashin's honor and ability.

Cashin was endorsed with particular enthusiasm by two former schoolmates, Commissioner Edward M. Sneed and Ward Committeeman William L. Dawson, who were students at Fisk university.



ATTY. JAMES B. CASHIN

Amsterdam Star-News
New York, N. Y.

THE STORY OF A VOICE AND A CONGRESS SEAT

Bill Dawson Will Get Chance of His Life in House; Well Merits Victory

NOV 14 1942

By JULIUS J. ADAMS

Nearly 18 years ago I sat in the ballroom of the Royal Circle of Friends at 51st St. and Michigan Ave., Chicago, and heard a young lawyer, World War veteran and embryonic politician, make an impassioned plea for recognition, meanwhile urging Republicans to nominate a Negro for Congress from the First Illinois District to unseat the veteran Martin B. Madden.

It was a feeble voice at that time, crying out for Negro leadership, but it was persistent. On the opposite side were such Republican luminaries as Edward H. Wright, peer of them all; Oscar DePriest, Louis B. Anderson, Adelbert H. Roberts and numerous others. The opposition yelled loud: "The time isn't ripe for a Negro congressman." But that feeble voice would not be stilled.

Fought for DePriest

Then, when in 1928, following the death of Madden, Oscar DePriest became the Republican candidate, the same voice was one of the loudest to be heard urging his election. It was no longer feeble. DePriest was elected, and re-elected.

And in 1930, when Mitchell was elected, the same voice rang out for Negro leadership in Congress, still espousing the cause of the Republicans.

NOV 14 1942

In the intervening years the voice was raised in behalf of the people of Illinois, when its owner was named assistant State's Attorney of Cook County; it was heard in the interests of the people of Chicago when it was carried into the Common Council, to which its possessor was elected several years ago. All this time it fought the Democrats and fought for the Republicans. Then came the switch.

Kelly-Nash politics, backed by powerful New Deal patronage, swept the G. O. P.'s out entirely in Chicago and Cook County. Republicans by the wholesale deserted the ranks, forsook old ties and sought greener fields among the Democrats. The voice that had for years appealed for Negro leadership, for a Negro congressman under the Republican banner, went, or was carried, over with the tide. Its owner became a Democrat, and as a Democrat it directed the course of politics in the once Republican-dominated Second Ward, and two years ago managed Arthur W. Mitchell's successful campaign for re-election for Congress.

NOV 14 1942

A Well-Merited Victory

The voice now appears to have run its course; it has won a long, hard fight, a well-deserved victory. After Jan. 3, 1943, the voice, feeble as it was when it first cried out for a Negro for Congress and Negro leadership, only to be told then that the time was not ripe, will itself speak out in Congress. For William L. (Bill) Dawson will on that day lift the once feeble voice to uphold the Constitution and support the Commander-in-Chief as a member of the United States Congress.

Thus, Georgia-born Bill Dawson has finally reached the climax of a brilliant career. Last Tuesday he won a sweeping victory over his Republican rival and one-time political stablemate, William E. King.

Athlete, soldier, orator, lawyer, scholar, organizer and a leader wise in the ways of the world, Dawson is one of the nation's ablest men. He will take into Congress all the best features of DePriest and Mitchell, plus those of his own. He possesses all the bulldog courage of DePriest (being afraid of nothing that walks, creeps, crawls or swims) and the scholarship and suavity of Mitchell. And while he will sit on the Democratic side of the House the Southern congressmen will find him too hot to handle if they attempt to push him around.

Dawson was born in Albany, Ga., and at the age of 19 years he went to Fisk University, Nashville, where he worked his way through college, to be graduated and win the coveted honor A. B. Magna Cum Laude. He was president of his class.

Starring in athletics, Bill played football and basketball, was among the best track men of his time and became one of the most heralded athletes in the South. During his college days Dawson excelled in oratory, and the debating team at Fisk, of which he was a member, never lost a contest.

Brave Soldier in France

When World War I broke out Dawson volunteered and was commissioned First Lieutenant of Infantry. In France he gained the reputation of being a brave and capable officer. He entered public life immediately upon his return from abroad and was still a student in the law school of Northwestern University when he was admitted to practice in Illinois. He is married, his wife being the former Nellie Brown of Washington, and they have two children, Barbara Ann and Bill, Jr.

NOV 14 1942

Regarding his activities in Congress, Dawson says he won't be interested in "posing for publicity," but, rather, he intends to devote his time to getting results.

The 78th Congress, which meets next January, will make world history, and any one of its members will have ample opportunity to achieve extraordinary distinction, and at the same time perform useful service for his country and humanity.

NOV 14 1942

Bill Dawson will have the chance of his life. He possesses the ability; he has the desire to serve, and his winning personality should gain him millions of followers. It is within his grasp to be the Moses of his race, which so badly needs strong, intelligent and courageous leadership. He is still young, extremely resourceful and exceptionally able. If he is careful he should make a great congressman.

NOTE: Newspapermen have never had a finer friend in politics than Bill Dawson. In his new post let us hope he continues an amicable relationship with the boys and girls of the Fourth Estate.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Induct Prescott As Chicago Judge

12/4/42

CHICAGO, —(ANP)— With impressive and fitting ceremonies Patrick B. Prescott, Jr., was inducted as an associate judge of the municipal court here last week, becoming the second Negro judge in the history of Chicago. An appointee of Gov. Dwight L. Green, Prescott was seated only after a long court battle to overcome opposition to his appointment, which brought him victory recently through the supreme court. His colored predecessor was the late Judge Albert B. George.

Many Republican leaders were on hand to witness Prescott's induction, including Gov. Green, Sen. Wayland Brooks, who made a hurried trip from Washington to attend. National Committeeman Warner W. Schroeder, State Chairman Ben L. Bervo, County Chairman John T. Dempsey, and Speaker Elmer J. Schnackenberg.

12/4/42

Other noted citizens taking part in the induction program were Ernest J. Wilkins, who spoke for the Cook County Bar association; C. Francis Stradferd, representing the American bar association; A. L. Foster, executive secretary of the Chicago Urban league; Mrs. Maude Roberts George, widow of Judge George; former Congressman Oscar DePriest; Judge Prescott's two law partners, A. Morris Burrows and Euclid L. Taylor, and former state Sen. William E. King.

Judge Prescott will serve in the non-jury tort branch of the municipal court until December 7, when he will be replaced by Wendell E. Green, former civil service commissioner, who was elected for a full term to the seat as associate judge.

Gov. Green predicted that Prescott's appointment would be a springboard to other victories. Married, the new judge is the husband of the former Annabelle Carey, daughter of the late Bishop A. J. Carey.

52c-1942
Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois



[TRIBUNE Photo.]

Gov. Green, Judge Patrick B. Prescott, Mrs. Prescott, Sen. Brooks, and Richard J. Lyons (left to right) as Judge Prescott was inducted to Municipal bench for two weeks.

52c-1942
Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Two Colored Judges!

TUESDAY Judge Patrick B. Prescott, Jr., was inducted as an associate justice in the Municipal Court of Chicago. Next month Judge-elect Wendell E. Green will too, be sworn in as the third colored man to give judicial decisions in the Municipal Court of Chicago. Thus, within one month two colored men will preside in the courts of Chicago.

Though Judge Prescott will hold his post only for a period of a few weeks we know that he will carry out the duties of his office according to the highest ideals of justice. His training and ability place him high above most of the other judges on the Municipal Court bench. We trust that when his short term expires, the people of Chicago will demand that his judicial talents be used in a manner consistent with his talents and ability. 12/13/42

Judge-elect Wendell E. Green will remain on the bench for a full term and during that time his rich experience and ability in the field of law will be fully recognized by those who have not known that keen intellect.

The better part of wisdom suggests that the city would do well to have more colored judges on the bench. It is a common thought that lawyers in the white race who have the abilities of Judge Prescott and Judge-elect Green do not often seek the Municipal Court bench. That being true, the people of this city will be the better off, insofar as justice is concerned, while these two colored judges grace our city courts.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

ARTHUR W. MITCHELL

12/5/42

THE WISDOM of the late Dr. Booker T. Washington, founder of Tuskegee Institute, was never better exemplified than in his selection of assosciates and assistants. Practically all the early workers at Tuskegee have justified the faith Dr. Washington showed in selecting them. Uniformly they were all men of character—Warren Logan, R. R. Taylor, Dr. Emmett J. Scott, Dr. George W. Carver, Dr. J. R. E. Lee and Arthur W. Mitchell, to name a few.

Mr. Mitchell is retiring at the end of this month after serving two terms in Congress, and we think it appropriate to give him a pat on the back and say that he made good. Starting life as office boy to the late Dr. Washington, Mr. Mitchell was so insired by the life of this great leader, that he determined to become a leader himself. After completing the course at Tuskegee, he became a teacher but found that the opportunities in the teaching profession were too limited for his ambition, so he continued his studies and became a lawyer, and eventually a member of Congress—the second Negro to sit in the halls of Congress since Reconstruction Days. 12/5/42

As a Congressman, Mr. Mitchell was often misunderstood and did not court publicity as many other legislators are doing. He consistently refused to stoop to demagoguery to attract attention. Nevertheless, he made his personality, felt and he retires with a heightened respect for himself and race because of the statesmanlike manner in which he has conducted himself.

12/5/42

Although a New Deal Democrat, he was outspoken in his criticism of members of his party in the recent anti-poll tax fight and in their failure to pass a federal anti-lynching bill. He has also been a militant fighter against jim-crowism Negroes suffer in inter-state railroad travel. His suit against the Rock Island Railroad and the Pullman Company was as powerful a blow against discrimination in inter-state travel as practiced against the Negro in this country as has been struck in our generation.

His retirement at the height of his power will be generally regretted by Negroes throughout the country. We hope that his successor, Attorney W. L. Dawson will maintain the splendid record his two predecessors from the First Congressional District of Illinois have set for him.

HERE'S WHAT DAWSON GETS AS CONGRESSMAN

The Chicago Bee

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10—(ANP)—Here's what your new congressman, William L. Dawson, will find out at an early date—or soon as he leaves his Chicago home to come to Washington to be sworn in as a member of the house of representatives.

First, his salary will be $10,000 per year. To this, for secretarial help, will be added $3,500 per year for his three aides. The law fixes the number of assistants he may have and also the top salary which will be $3,900.

Then he will be allowed $50 a year for air mail and special delivery postage. This is in addition to the ordinary franking privileges under which ordinary mail may be sent at government expense. And if he wants to use the telegraph instead of mail for official business, Mr. Dawson may do so at the expense of the government. 12/13/42

$200 Extra for Sessions

There is also a stationery clause which permits the new representative to draw an additional $200 for each session of congress. There is a doctor's office where he may receive treatment for minor ailments and first aid care.

He must pay for his shaves and haircuts in the house barber shop, although senators get theirs free. And he may have the choice of a white barber or a colored barber, will Mr. Dawson, should he desire to patronize the shop which is divided in half. One side has white barbers, the other side, presided over by Barber Neal, who has been in the house almost ever since they built the place is where most of the southerners, accustomed to colored barbers, have their tonsorial wants taken care of.

Mailing Costs Included 12/13/42

The longer Mr. Dawson stays in congress, the more money he receives for his mailing privileges, etc. And he will gradually become member of committees of utmost importance. At present he is more than likely to receive an assignment on some minor committee, like the invalid pensions group; or the conservation of wild life resources, etc. Chicago, Ill.

His election entitled him to a clean, modern office, supplied with heat, light and janitor service. So Mr. Dawson will embark on a new career on Monday, January 4, along with several other novices in this game of catch as catch can.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Mitchell Says Too Many Prefer Axis Victory To Granting Negro Rights

Departing Solon Has 'Frisco Speech Recorded

DEC 21 1942

WASHINGTON—(ANP)— Charging that there are scores of men in the United States congress who would rather see the axis powers win this war than to grant the Negro his rights as an American citizen, Congressman Arthur Mitchell inserted this speech in the Congressional Record, possibly his last official act in congress as a member of that body from the first district of Illinois.

DEC 21 1942

"These same men are loud and long in their acclaim for democratic rights of American citizens, but they lynch Negroes when it comes to the consideration of their citizenship rights in this country," Mr. Mitchell declared.

"It is my opinion that our own country must set its house in order, however, painful this might be, and practice democracy as well as preach it. The recent lynching of two Negro boys, 14 years of age, at Shubuta, Mississippi was just as responsible as any crime which has been committed by Nazis or the Japanese against our fighting soldiers.

DEC 21 1942

"There has been no punishment meted out to these midnight murders and wicked assassians, and there will probably be none. Is it any wonder than that thinking Negroes all over the country who know of this black unpunished crime in Mississippi and who read speeches made in the House and in the senate by Mississippi representatives against democracy being extended to Negroes, not only in Mississippi, but in the nation's capital, and, indeed, in all parts of the country, ask what band of civilization do they have in Mississippi and other states where such practices are common?"

Mr. Mitchell closed his address with high praise for the President and Mrs. Roosevelt, who, he said, "had done their best to fully include the Negro as a full fledged citizen of our country."

His speech was originally made in San Francisco.

Carrollton, Ga., Free-Press
December 22, 1942

Negro Retires From Congress 'To Serve His Race'

DEC 22 1942

That there is a race problem in this country is admitted by every one who has studied the socia sciences or interested himself in the economic and political move ments of the past fifty years o less.

That this race problem has been muddled by reason of misinformed and prejudiced opinions is also an admitted fact. It is also admitted that unscrupulous politicians have made the problem even harder to solve by reason of their race bait ing activities in order to bring about their own elevation in politics.

The race question in this country will never be solved by suppression, nor will it find a solution through the efforts of misinformed and misguided individuals who try to force one race upon an other.

DEC 22 1942

The settlement of the problem will come through the cooperation of leaders of both races. And this cooperation can be had.

A recent event that has caused forward looking leaders to realize that progress is being made in spite of the interference of those who know nothing or little of the subject, was the action of Arthur W. Mitchell, negro Congressman from Chicago, who voluntarily gave up his seat in that body to devote his future years to bringing about a working understanding between his race and the whites. Writing of this action Robert Humphries of the International News Service has this to say:

"Having voluntarily relinquished an assured re-election to Congress, a gray-haired Chicago Negro who was once Booker T. Washington's office boy. Thursday headed back for the sunny South to devote the balance of his life 'to bringing about a better understanding between my people and those with whom we live.'

DEC 22 1942

"As he began his journey to a farm south of Petersburg, Va., Arthur W. Mitchell, the first Negro Democrat ever to be elected to Congress, carried with him the personal good wishes of President Roosevelt, numerous high Government officials and scores of members of the House with whom he had served since 1933.

"'I leave,' said the 58-year-old Mitchell, 'with gladness in my heart and high hopes that I may better serve my people in the new task that I have chosen.'

To Form Organization

"'I am going to form an orgnization of leading white and colored people, not a protest organization, but an organization on broader lines I will dedicate it to understanding, tolerance and good will, and by those principles —and those principles alone—seek to accomplish a program for the good of all.'

DEC 22 1942

"Mitchell, whose farewell address in the House Wednesday was the signal for member after member, many of them Southerners, to rise and pay tribute to him, said his first aim was to obtain an audience with the governor of each state in the South.

"'I want their counsel on how to proceed and I want their co-operation,' Mitchell asserted. 'I have repeately spoken in the House against those of my race who have succumbed to agitation and aligned themselves with force.

'I cannot subscribe to force as the way to solve a problem between people . It will not work in the home with your wife; it will not achieve anything on a larger front.

"'Communism is not the solution for the Negro. Education and religion are.'

DEC 22 1942

Negro Succeeds Him

"Mitchell, who decided that he could perform a greater service for his people by leaving Congress to launch his new program, will be succeeded by another Negro, William L. Dawson, of Chicago.

"The retiring Congressman was born of slave parents, studied under the Negro leader, Booker T. Washington, was graduated from Tuskegee Institute, obtained a law degree from Columbia University, and later attended Harvard.

"As he journeyed toward Petersburg Thursday he bore this penned tribute from President Roosevelt:

"'In leaving Congress you must have a feeling of satisfaction that you have had a part in the constructive legislation which has meant so much to the welfare of the people as a whole.'"

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Mitchell Says Too Many Prefer Axis Victory To Grant Negro Rights

DEC 27 1942

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24—(ANP)—Charging that there are scores of men in the United States congress who would rather see the axis powers win this war than to grant the Negro his rights as an American citizen, Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell inserted this speech in the Congressional Record, possibly his last official act in congress as a member of that body from the first district of Illinois.

"These same men are loud and long in their acclaim for democratic rights of American citizens, but they lynch Negroes when it comes to the consideration of their citizenship rights in this country," Mr. Mitchell declared.

"It is my opinion that our own country must set its house in order however painful this might be, and practice democracy as well as preach it. The recent lynching of two Negro boys, 14 years of age, at Shubuta, Miss., was just as reprehensible as any crime which has been committed by the Nazis or the Japanese against our fighting soldiers.

DEC 27 1942

"There has been no punishment meted out to these midnight murderers and wicked assassins, and will probably be none. Is it any wonder then that thinking Negroes all over the country who know of this black unpunished crime in Mississippi and who read speeches made in the House and in the senate by Mississippi representatives against democracy being extended to Negroes, not only in Mississippi, but in the nation's capital, and, indeed, in all parts of the country, ask what brand of civilization do they have in Mississippi and other states where such practices are common?"

DEC 27 1942

Mr. Mitchell closed his address with high praise for President and Mrs. Roosevelt, who, he said, "had done their best to fully include the Negro as a full fledged citizen of our country."

His speech was originally made in San Francisco.

Atlanta, Ga. Journal
December 30, 1942

'A Little More Patience'

Baltimore Evening Sun

THE LAST session of the House of Representatives of the Seventy-seventh Congress came to an end on Wednesday. As usual, business was interrupted while retiring members made their farewell addresses and received encomiums from their colleagues.

DEC 30 1942

Among those who will not return was Arthur W. Mitchell, of the First Congressional District of Illinois. Representative Mitchell is a Negro. His brief speech, addressed to the House, deserves a wider audience. It touches upon the racial problem and one man's wise approach to its solution. This, in part, was what Representative Mitchell said:

"Mr. Speaker, eight years ago when I became a member of this House I made the acquaintance of a great many members on both the Democratic and Republican sides. They expressed themselves as being deeply interested in me and in my people, and voiced desire to be of whatever service they could to me in my work here in the Congress.

"I am leaving Congress now of my own free will. I was not a candidate for re-election. I chose not to be a candidate, because I felt there was a bigger work which I could do for my people, and particularly for my beloved Southland, than I could do here in Congress, and before I finish these few remarks I shall talk about the work I expect to do when I leave Congress. . . .

DEC 30 1942

"As I stand here to say good-by to many of you who were here when I came, I feel I have had a wonderful career here in Congress. This has been to me more than a great legislative body; it has been a great university, and I do not hesitate to say that the lessons I have learned from contact with you will go with me as I leave Congress, and I shall seek to put many of them into real force with my people.

"I am not going to Chicago, to New York, or to remain here in Washington; I am going back South, where I was born and reared, not to the State of Alabama, but to the State of Virginia; and I have a very definite reason and purpose in doing so. I realize that I represent a minority group in this country. From time to time there are grave misunderstandings that could be worked out if we were a little more patient, a little more tolerant, and studied these things a little more carefully. I believe I can make a contribution to the great work that was carried forward by my leader, and my teacher, and my benefactor; I refer now to Booker Washington. It was a happy privilege of mine to study and to serve under him, and I have tried here to reflect the beautiful spirit I saw always emanating from the life of that great leader, that great statesman.

DEC 30 1942

"Tomorrow I go to live in the great State of Virginia. If you see me 24 hours from now, you will see me in overalls on my own farm. I go down there to dedicate anew my life and every bit of energy I possess to working out a better understanding between the two races in the South, not in a spirit of bitterness, but in a spirit of understanding, a spirit of toleration, a spirit that I believe will lead us to a better state in life."

No one, of whatever race, who has the problem seriously at heart can fail to be moved by the spirit which actuates Arthur Mitchell. It brushes away what otherwise appear insuperable obstacles. He is one man. But a man who sets out upon his work in a spirit of understanding and tolerance will not be alone for long.

The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.

MITCHELL TELLS CONGRESS TOO MANY PREFER AXIS VICTORY; NEGROES OUT

DEC 25 1942

DEC 25 1942

Washington, Dec. 25 (ANP)—Charging that there are scores of men in the United States congress who would rather see the axis powers win this war than to grant the Negro his rights as an American citizen, Congressman Arthur Mitchell inserted this speech in the Congressional Record, possibly his last official act in congress as a member of that body from the district of Illinois.

"These same men are loud and long in their acclaim for democratic rights of American citizens, but they lynch Negroes when it comes to the consideration of their citizenship rights in this country," Mr. Mitchell declared.

"It is my opinion that our own country must set its house in order, however, painful this might be, and practice democracy as well as preach it. The recent lynching of two Negro boys, 14 years of age, at Shubuta, Miss., was just as reprehensible as any crime which has been committed by Nazis or the Japanese against our fighting soldiers.

"There has been no punishment meted out to these midnight murders and wicked assassins, and there will probably be none. Is it any wonder then that thinking Negroes all over the country who know of this black unpunished crime in Mississippi and who read speeches made in the House and in the senate by Mississippi representatives against democracy being extended to Negroes, not only in Mississippi, but in the nation's capital, and, indeed, in all parts of the country, ask what brand of civilization do they have in Mississippi and other states where such practices are common?"

Mr. Mitchell closed his address with high praise for the President and Mrs. Roosevelt, who, he said, "had done their best to fully include the Negro as a full fledge citizen of our country."

His speech was originally made in San Francisco.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

REP. MITCHELL MAKES FINAL HOUSE SPEECH

Plans To Retire To His $60,000 Virginia Plantation

DEC 26 1942

WASHINGTON.—In a stirring swan song speech to the adjourning session of the 77th Congress, Rep. Arthur W. Mitchell of Chicago pledged this week that he would initiate a broad campaign for better interracial understanding.

The first Negro Democrat to be elected to Congress read a letter to the House from President Roosevelt to himself:

"In leaving Congress you must have a feeling of satisfaction that you have had a part in the constructive legislation which has meant so much to the welfare of the people as a whole."

Mitchell said he would retire to his $60,000 home near Petersburg, Va., and will use his farm as base from which he hopes to start an organization of white and Negro people to improve racial relations. He will write and lecture as part of this campaign.

Succeeded By Dawson

Many members of the House, including several Southerners, joined in paying tribute to his eight years in the House. Rep. John J. Sparkman, Dem. Alabama, lauded Mitchell's attitude.

In his final address, Mitchell declared: "The way to understanding and tolerance is through friendship. While I have been in Congress I have sought to make friends for myself and for my race.

"I have sought to so conduct myself that as a result of my work there would be created in the hearts of men and women all over the country a more intelligent and more liberal attitude towards the Negro."

Mitchell will be succeeded by William L. Dawson, who will be sworn in on January 3.

Blasts Dixie Bloc

Charging that there are scores of men in Congress who would rather see the Axis powers win this war than grant the Negro his rights as an American citizen, Congressman Mitchell declared:

"These same men are loud and long in their acclaim for democratic rights of American citizens, but they lynch Negroes when it comes to the consideration of their citizenship rights in this country.

"It is my opinion that our own country must set its house in order, however painful this might be, and practice democracy as well as preach it. The recent lynching of two Negro boys, 14 years of age, at Shubuta, Miss., was just as reprehensible as any crime which has been committed by Nazis or the Japanese against our fighting soldiers.

DEC 26 1942

"There has been no punishment meted out to these midnight murders and wicked assassins, and there will probably be none. Is it any wonder then that thinking Negroes all over the country who know of this black unpunished crime in Mississippi and who read speeches made in the House and in the Senate by Mississippi representatives against democracy being extended to Negroes, not only in Mississippi, but in the nation's capital, and, indeed, in all parts of the country, ask what brand of civilization do they have in Mississippi and other states where such practices are common?"

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Congressman Mitchell

AN EDITORIAL

With the close of the 77th Congress last week, Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell, having voluntarily retired from active political life to devote the "balance of his life to bringing about better understanding between his people and those with whom we live." "I leave," said Mr. Mitchell, "with gladness in my heart and high hopes that I may better serve my people in the new task that I have chosen."

In a sense, Mr. Mitchell has been somewhat of a disappointment to the mass of American Negroes. For one thing, the Congressman found himself in constant conflicts and wrangles, not alone with acknowledged and accepted Negro leaders, but likewise with the Negro press. All of which issues from the fact that Mr. Mitchell was too individualistic and self-centered to admit of any view-point . . . save his own.

Upon leaving Washington for his Petersburg, Va., Farm Estate, Mr. Mitchell said: "I am going to form an organization of leading white and colored people, not a protest organization, but an organization on broader lines. I will dedicate it to understanding, . . tolerance and good will, and by those principles, and those principles alone — seek to accomplish a program for the good of all."

DEC 23 1942

The Congressman's ideals for his new organization are worthy and lofty. Certainly his program will do no harm and we do hope him success. We know nothing better Mr. Mitchell could do than to tour the South, conferring with State officials toward the end of bringing about better interracial understanding.

DEC 23 1942

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo. 52c-1942

Negro Wins Wyandotte County Commission Job First Time in History

NOV 6 - 1942

W. H. Towers Reelected to Kansas Legislature, Defeating Cordell Meeks; Knox and Watkins Lose

NOV 6 - 1942

The biggest victory Negroes of Greater Kansas City ever have won at the polls came Tuesday with the election of Fred White as Wyandotte county commissioner.

White, a Negro Republican, defeated Frank R. Brown, white Democrat, by over 300 votes for the important county post. The latest count obtainable at press time was White, 5,541; Brown, 5,160.

Brown had served two years on the county commission which handles all of the finances of Wyandotte county including the county purchasing, regulation of taxes and other financial matters. The Kansas City, Kas. He is captain of No. 5 fire company of Kansas City, Kas., having been with the fire department for 30 years, 14 of them as captain.

In the contest for representative from the eighth district to the Kansas state legislature, William H. Towers, Republican incumbent, defeated Cordell D. Meeks, Democrat, by 1,000 votes.

Andrew Schoeppel of Ness City was elected governor of Kansas. He was the choice of the majority of Negro voters.

In Kansas City, Mo., both Negro candidates lost to their white opponents. T. B. Watkins, undertaker, Republican candidate for legislator from the fourth legislative district, was defeated by Thomas J. Gill, Democratic incumbent by 604 votes. The final count was Gill, 6,306; Watkins, 5,702.

NOV 6 - 1942

L. Amasa Knox, attorney, Republican candidate for justice of the peace in the sixth district, was defeated by Henry McKissick, Democrat. The complete returns give McKissick 2,894 votes to 1,303 for Knox.

Constitutional amendment No. 1. which the Negroes of St. Louis county were anxious to have passed, was voted by a big majority.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

W. H. Towers Retains Legislative Position

Republican Incumbent Proud Also of Fred White Victory

Nov. 13, 1942

KANSAS CITY, Kas. —(Special) —William H. Towers, incumbent representative from the 8th legislative district for the Kansas legislature, retained his post by defeating the Democratic candidate, Cordell D. Meeks, also a Negro, by a little more than 1,200 votes in the general county and state election Tuesday.

The Republican representative polled 5,818 votes, according to the unofficial count of all precincts, while Meeks counted 4,572 votes unofficially.

This will be Tower's 4th term as a Kansas representative. In a statement to the Call, Towers declared:

"I appreciate the vote of confidance of my constituency. I promise to represent them to the best of my ability for the next two years."

About Fred White's history-making victory as the first Negro county commissioner, Towers said: "I consider it a victory for the Negroes of Wyandotte county. It indicated that Negroes are able to pull together. The election of Fred White proves that Negroes have become an intricate part of

amount of votes that he collected came as something of a surprise because of the Republican trend in the election and his newness to the political game, released this statement for publication:

"I thank my more than 4,500 friends and fellow citizens of the 8th district who supported my candidacy. I also thank everyone who exercised his right to vote. Voting and the 2-party system are two of the great processes of the democracy for which we are fighting. Without these processes, no constructive criticism of incompetence in office could ever be made."

"I have already sent my congratulations to Representative Towers. I wish him Godspeed and the confidence of his constituency, and I pledge to cooperate with him in any program which will benefit the people of the 8th district."

"In the recent campaign The CALL played an all important role. The CALL and its Kansas manager, Mr. Milton Bledsoe, have helped to shape the destiny of an awakened people. I congratulate The CALL and Mr. Bledsoe, crusader of equal opportunity for Negroes."

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Negro Wins Wyandotte County Commission Job First Time in History

Fire Captain to $3,000 a Year Post; William H. Towers Reelected to Kans. Legislature, Defeating Cordell Meeks

Nov. 13 1942

The biggest victory Negroes of Greater Kansas City ever have won at the polls came last week with the election of Fred White as Wyandotte county commissioner.

Kansas Republicans, Democrats, Negro and white, marched to the polls and in a history-making election chose White, captain of fire station No. 5, to serve as county commissioner of the second district. Mr. White is a Republican. He serves four years at $3,000 a year.

White, a Negro Republican, defeated Frank R. Brown, white Democrat, by over 400 votes for the important county post.

The unofficial figures in the White-Brown commissioner race were given Wednesday as: White, 5,583 and Brown, 5,172. White's lead is 411 votes.

Duties of County Judges

The official count will take place today in the county courthouse.

Ninety absentee ballots were sent out in the district. They will have no bearing on White's lead and his clinching of the commissionership.

The duties of the county commissioners are similar to those performed by county judges in Kansas City, Mo., and other communities.

The commissioners set the local tax rate, employ all persons for maintenance of the courthouse, the personnel of the county institutions, approve all county purchases and similar work.

The commissioners have charge of all bridges and a considerable part of the road system.

Road and bridge workers are hired by this board as well as employes for Wyandotte County lake, one of the finest recreation centers in the middle west.

Will Direct County Government

For the next four years White, along with his fellow-commissioners, Roy Wheat, Republican and Lew Holcomb, Democrat, both white, will direct the Wyandotte county government with a population of more than 100.000.

White's election restores the balance of power to the Republican party, the first time since 1934 when the veteran G.O.P. commissioner, Sam Clark, retired and Frank Brown, Democrat and defeated incumbent, became the second district commissioner.

The new commissioner had the solid backing of Negro Republicans and Democrats in the district plus generous assistance from white Republicans and a few white Democrats.

The second district comprises the area in Wyandotte county bounded on the north by the river, the west by Eighteenth street, the east by the levee and on the south by the North side of State avenue.

The Negro vote is approximately 55 per cent of the voting strength and is practically the same vote needed to elect a representative from the eighth district.

Tuesday's election climaxed the third attempt of second district Negroes to elect a commissioner. The first was in 1934 when a Negro physician was nominated only to be defeated in the general election.

In 1938 Negroes failed to elect a candidate because two strong men were in the campaign and the vote was split in such fashion that the white candidate "rode through" on less than half the vote polled by Negro candidates.

When the plan to again try electing a Negro county commissioner was brought to light last January several persons who had worked in the previous attempts politely declined to have anything to do with any further venturing in trying to elect a Negro as a major official in Wyandotte county.

Boom Starts in June

However, on Kansas Day of last year, boosters of Fred White, veteran fire department worker, for 30 years whooped it up for the prospective candidate in Topeka. And not true to form there seemed to be no sustained objection to his candidacy.

Six weeks later Mr. White announced his intentions to run for county commissioner. An advisory committee was organized and the propaganda started that only one candidate would be backed in the August primary.

In March a banquet honoring Mr. White and William H. Towers was held at First A.M.E. church. More than 300 public spirited citizens were present including school teachers and others not ordinarily interested actively in politics.

The White boom got underway and as the end of June neared when the deadline for filing for offices was at hand only the name of Fred White was connected with the primary candidate. Apparent unity in Negro political ranks seemed about to become a reality.

Two weeks before the closing time Bennie Robinson, local politician, currently a Republican but previously a Democrat entered the primary race for commissioner. Little attention was paid to his entering the campaign.

On June 17, three days before time to end filing, a local physician who had tried unsuccessfully three times to win public office filed for county commissioner. This made three candidates, the same number as had tried to vie for the nomination in 1938 and had lost.

3 Warring Camps Formed

Political peace vanished in Wyandotte County with three warring camps being formed but however with a large segment of the population remaining uncommitted seemingly to any candidate.

Two white candidates were also on the ticket.

When the smoke of the primary battle cleared away on August 4, White emerged the victor by several hundred votes over his four rivals.

White was supported by a well-knit, small but hard-working organization in getting ready for the November election.

With White's nomination party lines melted in the second district. Negro Democrats pledged their support to Mr. White and keeping their word was strikingly noticeable and most helpful in Tuesday's election.

In the west end of the district where reside a large number of white Republicans a White for commissioner club was formed with Dr. L. D. Mabie, prominent physician as president. H. F. Kilby, one of the candidates White defeated in the primary, was treasurer of the club and one of its hardest workers in getting votes for White.

Bennie Robinson, although back in the Republicans ranks, supported Frank Brown, Democrat, following the primary defeat. The doctor who was snowed under in the primary by White did not support the latter in the election.

In the contest for representative from the eighth district to the Kansas state legislature, William H. Towers, Republican incumbent, defeated Cordell D. Meeks, Democrat, by 1,200 votes.

Andrew Schoeppel of Ness City was elected governor of Kansas. He was the choice of the majority of Negro voters as was Senator Arthur Capper who was reelected.

White is a native Kansan and a resident for more than 50 years. He operated the only Negro pawn shop in Kansas City, Kas., before giving up the business to enter public life.

His 30 years of service on the K.C.K. fire department has not been marred by a single demerit or reprimand during that time.

He is a member of First Baptist church and chairman of the finance committee of the organ fund for that congregation. He is allied with various civic movements and a member of organized labor.

A Recent Widower

His wife, the late Mrs. Lillian White, died last June. The White home is at 2130 North Fifth St.

Mr. White is eligible for retirement from the fire department.

Bishop Gregg Comes Home to Vote for White

Bishop John A. Gregg of the third Episcopal district of the A. M. E. church came home Tuesday from Chicago for the sole purpose of voting for Fred White and the state and local Republican ticket.

He left Tuesday afternoon for Atlanta and asked a friend to send him a telegram as to the outcome of the White-Brown commissioner race. The message was sent to reach him before he left his train but unfortunately the high churchman had left the train when the communication arrived.

Bishop Gregg was one of the early boosters of Mr. White's candidacy and a letter sent to the Call by the prelate in which he urged support for White was reproduced full size in the Call last March.

528-1942

52c-1942

The Board of Education.

To the Editor of The Courier-Journal.

Your editorial of October 26, commenting favorably upon the creation of a memorial to Dr. George Washington Carver as being an honor of which he is worthy and also reflecting honor upon the race of which he is a member, was read with gratification and approval. However, I believe there is a situation locally that could well be commented on favorably by your paper. This is the fact that 13 per cent of our population is not represented on the Board of Education and in all fairness the Board of Education should number among its members a Negro.

Louisville, J. W. G.

Courier-Journal
OCT 30 1942
Louisville, Ky.

52c-1942
New York Times
New York, N. Y.

U. S. ENVOYS RETURN FOR CONSULTATION



Alexander W. Weddell, Ambassador to Spain, as he and Mrs. Weddell arrived here yesterday on a Clipper. FEB 25 1942



Lester A. Walton, Minister to Liberia, with Mrs. Walton as they stepped off the transatlantic flying boat. FEB 25 1942

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Walton Home To Give Report

FEB 28 1942

New Yorker Arrives By Clipper at LaGuardia Airport on Tuesday

FEB 28 1942

(Photo on Page 2)

Declaring that "Liberia is one of the few countries in the world today operating on a balanced



LESTER A. WALTON

Minister Here To Give Report

New Yorker Arrives By Clipper at LaGuardia Field on Tuesday

(Continued from Page 1)

budget," United States Minister Lester A. Walton on his arrival in New York Tuesday denied any anti-American sentiment on the part of President Edwin Barclay, officials of the Liberian Republic and the Liberian people.

Mr. Walton arrived by Pan-American Airways clipper with Mrs. Walton at LaGuardia Airport. They hurried to their city residence, 2588 Seventh Avenue, pending the diplomat's call at the State Department some time this week.

"Any statement," Mr. Walton said, "which implies or insinuates that Liberia is pro-Axis is absurd and pure bunk. Liberia is neutral, but definitely pro-American. Like most nations, the Liberians prefer peace. It is the hope of the people that their little country will not be involved in the world conflict."

Mr. Walton said that he was instructed by the State Department to return to Washington for consultations, and that while in the nation's capital he expects to see President Roosevelt and Secretary of State Cordell Hull. His last visit to the United States was in 1940. He returned to his post at Monrovia in November of that year.

Although refusing to discuss the international situation, particularly as it affects the United States and the Liberian Republic, Mr. Walton took time to say a word on the "present healthy condition of the Republic." He said that after balancing its budget, the Republic had excess revenues of about $400,000 over the estimated budget.

"One of the pleasing factors, which has contributed to the nation's economic progress," Mr. Walton explained, "was the large sums collected from internal revenue. While customs receipts have fallen due to war conditions, internal revenue has risen above customs receipts for the first time in the history of the Republic."

The internal development of the country was due, he declared, to the growth of the gold mining industry, which during 1941 exported more than half a million dollars in gold. Another important factor in Liberia's economic stability was said to be Firestone's operations in the cultivation of rubber in the country. According to Mr. Walton, the Firestone Rubber Company paid to Liberians during 1941, more than one million dollars in salaries and wages. In addition to this amount must be reckoned the still larger sums paid to white Americans, who spend some of what they get in the Republic.

Mr. Walton, who has been U. S. Minister to Liberia since 1935, is dean of the diplomatic corps at Monrovia. He and Mrs. Walton left Liberia on February 21, and were guests at tea with the governor of Trinidad, West Indies, at the Red House. Alexander W. Weddell, Ambasador to Spain, and Mrs. Weddell, and Colonel George A. Green, technical adviser to Averell Harriman, lease-lend expert in London, were also on board the clipper that brought Mr. and Mrs. Walton to the United States.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

WEDDELL ARRIVES FOR CONSULTATION

Food Conditions Improved for Favored Classes in Spain, Ambassador Reports

ENVOY TO LIBERIA RETURNS

FEB 25 1942

Germans Leaving the Country, Walton Says—Harriman Aide Also on Clipper

Ambassador W. Wedell, Ambassador to Spain, who was called home for consultation by the State Department, arrived here yesterday by Pan American Airways clipper. Although he indicated that after reporting to the State Department he migh "have something to say," Mr. Weddells only definite statement about the situation abroad was that while food conditions in Spain were still bad they were now better for the more favored classes than in the occupied nations of Europe.

Lester A. Walton, Minister to Liberia, and Colonel George A. Green, technical adviser to W. Averell Harriman, lease-lend expeditor in London, also were among the seven passengers from Europe and Africa.

Mr. Weddell said he was here to "consult, whatever that means," and that he might return to Spain in three weeks or a month. He added that he was going to his home in Richmond, Va., and then would report to the State Department. FEB 25 1942

To Get Things "Off His Chest"

Asked to comment on the war, he replied that he had been en route to the United States for three weeks and that many things can happen in that time. The Am-

bassador said he was going to get come things off his chest when he visits the State Department "and then I'll probably have something to say." FEB 25 1942

Mr. Weddell, who was appointed the first United States Ambassador to Franco Spain in May, 1939, was here last in 1940, when a three-month leave was cut to ten days because "things began to happen." He said that he had been drinking milk out of tins for the last three years and "I am going to head for the nearest milk bar, if there is such a thing here.". His wife accompanied him on the trip.

Mr. Walton, Minister to Liberia since 1935 and dean of the diplomatic corps there, said he had been instructed to return home for consultation.

The war has not appreciably affected Liberia as yet, he said, though it is difficult to tell what will happen with the United States involved. He pointed out that Liberia has been getting 95 per cent of her food from the United States and up to date has been "very fortunate indeed."

Germans Leaving Liberia

Liberia is neutral, Mr. Walton continued, but her sentiment is "definitely pro-American," since the country was founded by Americans and has been traditionally American. He added that the Liberians abhor war and presumably want to stay out of it. The Germans are leaving the country and there are only twenty-six German nationals in Liberia besides the German Consul and his staff, he said ,adding that there are no Italians there. FEB 25 1942

Mr. Walton, who was last here on leave in 1940, said he would go to his home, 2588 Seventh Avenue, before reporting to the State Department. He was accompanied by his wife, daughter of Fred R. Moore, editor of The New York Age, Negro weekly, and former Minister to Liberia.

Colonel Green said he was here for a month's visit to bring himself up to date "on the progress made by the American Army, particularly regarding the production of weapons." A specialist on tank production and operation, Colonel Green was in the Middle East with Mr. Harriman last July.

Food, particularly eggs, meats, sugar and cheese, is getting scarce in England, Colonel Green said. He added that the traveler from England is struck by the waste of food in Lisbon and especially by such luxuries as full bowls of sugar on the restaurant tables.

The clipper, commanded by Captain Daniel W. Pippinger, also carried forty-six other passengers, 7,400 pounds of transatlantic mail and fifty pounds of express.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Walton Back Because Of Navy Bias?

OCT 10 1942

WASHINGTON, (ANP)—Considerable comment is being raised over a story appearing in the September 25 issue of "The Call," Socialist publication which purports to give a background story to the FEPC-manpower commission controversy. OCT 10 1942

"The story actually started back on the coast of Africa in Liberia," the writer says. "The American minister to Liberia is a Negro named Lester Walton. When the United States navy moved into this strategic spot on the African coast, navy officials protested at having to operate through a Negro minister. Diplomatic conventions demanded that they work through the office of the American minister. They simply did not like it and got him called home."

Whether this is the true story of the reason Minister Walton still is in the United States no one will say. OCT 10 1942

Continuing, the writer says, "Minister Walton, on his arrival in the U. S., became a minister without a country."

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Officials Are Silent On Troops

NOV 7 - 1942

Source Reveals American Troops In Africa 3 Months

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Speculation was rife this week in the nation's capital over the recent action of President Roosevelt in sending Lt. Col. Henry McBride as special envoy to the West African Republic of Liberia while Lester A. Walton, appointed by the president when he first took office as U. S. minister to Liberia, remains at home on leave.

A Reuters, British news agency, dispatch told of the return of Lt. Col. McBride to Washington for a brief visit. Reuters described McBride as "special representative of Franklin D. Roosevelt."

NO OFFICIAL WORD

Despite the world acceptance of the presence of American troops in Liberia, the War and Navy Departments have not announced the arrival of troops, and the president last week failed to comment on a query of the stationing of troops there.

In addition to Reuters, Vichy, Berlin and Liberian sources have revealed the presence of American troops in the Negro Republic.

THERE JULY 26 NOV 7 - 1942

A London dispatch of the Monrovian correspondent of the African World placed colored troops in Liberia as early as July 26. The writer stated that "the Americans arrived in time to participate in Liberia's Independence Day, July 26. The night before the U. S. Army Band made its debut in Monrovia when a dance was staged.

Reports from the British press reveal that Col. McBride has held conferences with Edwin Barclay, president of Liberia, and that "an atmosphere of extreme cordiality prevailed." Following this conference Col. McBride flew from one of the two flying fields, Roberts Field, to report to President Roosevelt.

Vichy professes great relief that the American convoy, which its observers detected at sea, was headed for Liberia instead of Dakar, 750 air miles from Monrovia, the Liberian capital.

FRIENDLY TO U. S.

An American expeditionary force probably will be welcome in the colored republic, which was established ninety-five years ago under American auspices and has always enjoyed the friendly interest of the United States Government. NOV 7 - 1942

German nationals are reported now to be leaving Liberia, and it is believed that Liberia will soon officially announce that she is joining the United Nations.

OTHER ARRIVALS

American troops are reported to have arrived also on the Gold Coast, in Nigeria, at Brazzaville, in French Equatorial Africa, which is under de Gaullist control, and at Leopoldville in the Belgian Congo. At each of these bridgeheads upon the African continent the presence of colored American troops has been unofficially reported.

PASS FOUR ACTS

Four important acts providing for Liberia's full co-operation in America's plan were passed by the National Legislature at Monrovia, after the longest session in the history of the republic—the legislature sat from October, 1941, to the end of last June, when it adjourned for reassembly this month.

The Acts provided for: Granting to the Liberian President of special emergency powers until six months after the end of the war; Regulation of air navigation and provision for airports of entry; Authorization of the Liberian President to appoint a Natioal Economy Committee to prevent profiteering; and Restriction of all alien residents who are nationals of countries not in treaty relation with Liberia.

The legislature passed resolutions approving agreements entered into between the government and Pan-American Airways and a further resolution "approving the agreement entered into between the Liberian Government and the U. S. Government."

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Boston Attorney Is Named Assistant To Attorney General

BOSTON, Mass. "I hope that this appointment will in some way make up for the [illegible]s and unfairness which his race has suffered in these critical times. This appointment will show the nation how the Commonwealth of Massachusetts stands on the question of race prejudice."

With these words of encouragement, Attorney General Robert T. Bushnell of this city, announced the naming of G. Bruce Robinson, Boston lawyer, to the position of Assistant Attorney General of the State of Massachusetts.

While not saying so in direct words, Bushnell was by inference hitting at the mistreatment of Roland Hayes in Rome, Georgia, and the recent un-American statements of Governors of two Southern States.

The new appointee is an official of the local Selective Service Board and a graduate of Boston University Law School.

52c-1942
Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

80-YEAR-OLD BEN B. PELHAM RESIGNS POST

Marks End Of Near Half Century As Municipal Office Holder

FEB 14 1942

DETROIT—The long and illustrious career of the dean of public officials in Michigan came to an end Saturday when Benjamin B. Pelham, County accountant, resigned his position.

FEB 14 1942

The resignation of the accountant was submitted on his eightieth birthday. The Board of County Auditors accepted the resignation, ordered that his name be kept on the payroll for the month of February, and expressed hope he would be able to continue to serve the County in some other manner.

The resignation marked the end of almost a half century of service as a public official with Wayne County.

It was January 1, 1895, more than 47 years ago, that Pelham first began working for the County, serving as a clerk in the county clerk's office. He later served in the office of the register of deeds, and in 1909 was named bookkeeper and accountant for the board of county auditors.

FEB 14 1942

Pelham, who during these many years was, to all intents and purposes, the board of county auditors, gave his age and illness as the reason for resigning his position. A short time ago Pelham suffered two broken ribs when he fell in his home.

Pelham's letter of resignation reads as follows:

"Since 1895 the population of Wayne county has grown almost tenfold and its importance ever more rapidly. Continuously throughout these 47 years it has been my privilege to serve Wayne county in many capacities. My consistent aim throughout this entire period, from my earliest clerkship to the present time, has been to accomplish each task presented to me conscientiously, honestly and with constant awareness of the public trust with which I was charged.

"After so long an association, it is but natural that I feel a deep sense of regret in tendering my resignation as county accountant. I wish to express at this time my most sincere appreciation for the confidence which has permitted so long a period of public service and to voice the hope that the increasingly difficult problems of county government will be solved in a manner which will best serve the public interest."

Those close to county government say Pelham knew more about the business of the county than any other man in public office. Candidates for the office of county auditor often accused him of being the czar of the county and promised to discharge him if elected, but this did not occur after the candidate was in office. He realized then that he had to lean on Pelham for support.

FEB 14 1942

The resignation of Pelham follows the ousting of two of the three county auditors after grand jury investigation, and the discharge last week of three high county officials, including the white woman who was Pelham's chief assistant. Her discharge followed questioning by the grand jury.

Pelham was born in Detroit, a short distance from the present county building, in 1862. His parents came to Detroit from Petersburg, Va., three years before. His parents and grandparents were free people.

He has a remarkable memory that even old age could not dull, having at his fingertips even the smallest details pertaining to public finances, and operation of county offices and institutions.

As a result, his authority, assumed rather than delegated, extended into the domains of the county clerk, treasurer, the courts and even into the capitol at Lansing.

The board of auditors and the board of supervisors, the two governing bodies of the county, acted almost without question on his recommendations.

His proposals in making the budget were followed. He kept a finger on assessments and more than any one person was responsible for fixing the tax rate.

Although two county auditors have been swept out of office on charges following the institution of grand jury investigation into county affairs last fall, the former county accountant has not been named in any of the shady dealings which brought on the investigation. He has been questioned by the grand jury.

MICHIGAN

FEB 14 1942

Pelham's son, Alfred, is an employee in the office formerly occupied by his father, but it's hardly likely that he will be named to fill the vacancy although he has been trained under his parent.

In fact, it probably will be a long number of years before another Negro ever gets the opportunity to hold the office of county accountant of the county of Wayne.

52c-1942
Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

MISSOURI

Anna Brown Appointed Deputy Circuit Clerk At County Courthouse

MAR 13 1942

MAR 13 1942 MAR 13 1942

Gets White-Collar Job in Office Of Bernard T. Flannery Through Guy Given and Jeffersonian Club

The fifth Negro was placed in a clerical position at the Jackson county courthouse by the Jeffersonian Democratic club of which Guy Given is head when Mrs. Anna Brown began her duties as deputy circuit clerk Wednesday morning, March 4.

Mrs. Brown, who lives at 1009 Vine street, was assigned to the tax division of the circuit clerk's office by Bernard T. Flannery, circuit clerk, who made the appointment through the Jeffersonian club of Fifteenth street of which he is a member.

When Flannery swore Mrs. Brown into office, he put the third Negro white-collar employe to work in his office.

William L. Jordan, 1611 East Tenth street, has been a deputy clerk in the circuit clerk's office since January, 1939. William McAllister, 1918 East Seventeenth street, was appointed deputy circuit clerk by Flannery two years ago. McAllister is assigned to the criminal division. Jordan works in both criminal and civil divisions.

MAR 13 1942

NATIVE OF ARKANSAS

Mrs. Brown works in the civil division, her specific assignment being the handling of delinquent tax suits. The clerk's office has some 36,000 back tax suits on hand now. It is this momentous task that Mrs. Brown is beginning. It is her duty to see that each of these suits is properly recorded in the huge tax ledgers.

A native of Okolona, Ark., Mrs. Brown has lived in Kansas City for 21 years. She is a member of St. Stephen's Baptist church where she is president of a missionary circle and group captain of the Busy Bee union of the Baptist Adult union.

MAR 13 1942

She has been a member of the Jeffersonian Democratic club for eight years and a member of the women's auxiliary of the club since it was first organized with the late Mrs. Lettie Jordan as president.

Mrs. Brown has a daughter, Bertha Mae Bryant, 14-year-old junior at Lincoln high school.

As she began her new duties, Mrs. Brown said that Mr. Flannery and Mr. Given have proved themselves true friends of the Negro by performing needed services in the community and by placing Negroes in positions of responsibility in offices in the courthouse.

"Never before in the political history of Kansas City has the consideration given to the rights of Negroes been so predominant as it is today in the Jeffersonian Democratic club, whose leader, Guy Given, has shown his determination to give the Negro equal rights by placing them in positions of responsibility in offices of the courthouse.

MAR 13 1942

GETS DEFINITE GOAL

"It is apparent that Mr. Given has the Negro's welfare at heart when he has chosen Negroes to fill important positions such as deputy county assessor and deputy circuit clerk.

"I am the first Negro woman to be appointed deputy circuit clerk and I am grateful to Mr. Flannery and Mr. Given for this opportunity. I shall carry out my duties to the best of my ability and will strive to be a credit to the Negro race.

"I will try to continue the good records made by the Negroes already holding office in the courthouse through the consideration of Mr. Given. I refer to Mrs. Viola Nichols and Grant McClellan, who are deputy assessors in the office of Assessor George Clark and to William Jordan and William McAllister in the circuit clerk's office, and Fred Lewis, who was placed in the Jackson County juvenile court division as a probation officer through the Jeffersonian Democratic club."

"Al Douchett also is an asset to this organization," Mrs. Brown continued, "and also to the Negro race by his impregnable record as a deputy in the recorder of deeds office of Jackson County. Many other instances too numerous to mention show that Mr. Given always has the Negro in mind and has worked inexhaustibly for many years to give the Negro his rights."

The Jeffersonian Democratic club is supporting the United Democratic ticket headed by Bernard L. Glover in the city primary March 10.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Missouri Still Neglectful of Us

OCT 9 - 1942

The Blue Book, the official publication of Missouri, discloses the almost total absence of Negroes from state public service. Page after page of employes for highways and social security, and of a myriad of smaller boards and commissions, yet so few Negroes that they could all be listed on one page with room to spare. This is regretable, because public employment is worthwhile both for itself and for its contacts which can be capitalized. The lack of it has contributed to the scant consideration given Negroes.

Some of these public jobs are under civil service. We grant that Negroes have not been diligent in taking examinations. But their backwardness is the consequence of the many years of refusal to share public work with them. Administrations change, control shifts from party to party. All the while Missouri maintains its indifference to its Negro citizens.

OCT 9 - 1942

Negroes themselves are partly responsible for the situation. Had they been half as zealous in their own behalf as they have been in the interest of candidates and parties, their employment in the many departments of state government would have been established long ago.

This short-sighted scramble should never have been. Negroes ought to have been demanding what their political services were worth. But neither in Republican nor Democratic administrations, have Negro leaders had the wit to do that. The demand made last spring by Negro Republican leaders that the positions in the Negro state university be left to them is typical of the kind of politics which has made their people little esteemed and badly treated in Missouri.

OCT 9 - 1942

While Negroes have a part in their neglected condition, political parties and the governors they have put in office are also to blame. These governors besides being public officials are the heads of the parties, captains who lay the party course. In that capacity they owe a duty to their Negro supporters. Instead of doing it, they have taken advantage of the shortsightedness of Negro leaders and cheated loyal supporters of their reward.

Lloyd Stark, elected governor as a Democrat, and Forrest Donnell, elected governor as a Republican, illustrate the Missouri attitude toward the Negro. The former went into office and out of it without having let a single Negro delegation talk with him. It goes without saying that a public official with that attitude, had no intention of serving all citizens alike. The Stark administration admitted in court that the state had not given Negroes their legal rights and then defended that neglect by excuses and subterfuges that shame representative government.

OCT 9 - 1942

Bearing in mind the Stark record, consider the one being made by Gov. Donnell. As the leader of the opposition party, he has had a golden opportunity to prove to Negroes that his party is different. Private business, faced with the loss of employes to war industries, is employing Negroes. The state, like local units of government, also has lost hands to private employers and the draft. The Governor could put Negroes to work. That employment whether in outstanding jobs given for the first time, or ordinary ones in unprecedented quantity, would decide Negroes' choice in November. Judging from what Negro Republican leaders did last spring, the Governor has not been shown this opportunity to play good politics, and he has not seen it for himself.

Governor Donnell's administration is running true to the Missouri tradition concerning Negroes. Though it knows that public services, such as schools for Negroes, are not what they should be, time officials who treat them with [illegible] that having been admitted in a court of record, yet the school authorities under Donnell do no more to make them equal now than they did under Stark.

Not only in public employment but in public services, there is need of a new deal for Negroes. Their own leaders, both Republican and Democratic, should

OCT 9 - 1942

52c-1942
Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

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GETS DEFINITE GOAL

"It is apparent that Mr. Given has the Negro's welfare at heart when he has chosen Negroes to fill important positions such as deputy county assessor and deputy circuit clerk.

"I am the first Negro woman to be appointed deputy circuit clerk and I am grateful to Mr. Flannery and Mr. Given for this opportunity. I shall carry out my duties to the best of my ability and will strive to be a credit to the Negro race.

"I will try to continue the good records made by the Negroes already holding office in the courthouse through the consideration of Mr. Given. I refer to Mrs. Viola Nichols and Grant McClellan, who are deputy assessors in the office of Assessor George Clark and to William Jordan and William McAllister in the circuit clerk's office, and Fred Lewis, who was placed in the Jackson County juvenile court division as a probation officer through the Jeffersonian Democratic club."

"Al Douchett also is an asset to this organization," Mrs. Brown continued, "and also to the Negro race by his impregnable record as a deputy in the recorder of deeds office of Jackson County. Many other instances too numerous to mention show that Mr. Given always has the Negro in mind and has worked inexhaustibly for many years to give the Negro his rights."

The Jeffersonian Democratic club is supporting the United Democratic ticket headed by Bernard L. Glover in the city primary March 10.

Kansas City Cal
Kansas City, Mo.

Missouri Still Neglectful of Us

OCT 9 - 1942

The Blue Book, the official publication of Missouri, discloses the almost total absence of Negroes from state public service. Page after page of employes for highways and social security, and of a myriad of smaller boards and commissions, yet so few Negroes that they could all be listed on one page with room to spare. This is regretable, because public employment is worthwhile both for itself and for its contacts which can be capitalized. The lack of it has contributed to the scant consideration given Negroes.

Some of these public jobs are under civil service. We grant that Negroes have not been diligent in taking examinations. But their backwardness is the consequence of the many years of refusal to share public work with them. Administrations change, control shifts from party to party. All the while Missouri maintains its indifference to its Negro citizens.

OCT 9 - 1942

Negroes themselves are partly responsible for the situation. Had they been half as zealous in their own behalf as they have been in the interest of candidates and parties, their employment in the many departments of state government would have been established long ago.

This short-sighted scramble should never have been. Negroes ought to have been demanding what their political services were worth. But neither in Republican nor Democratic administrations, have Negro leaders had the wit to do that. The demand made last spring by Negro Republican leaders that the positions in the Negro state university be left to them is typical of the kind of politics which has made their people little esteemed and badly treated in Missouri.

OCT 9 - 1942

While Negroes have a part in their neglected condition, political parties and the governors they have put in office are also to blame. These governors besides being public officials are the heads of the parties, captains who lay the party course. In that capacity they owe a duty to their Negro supporters. Instead of doing it, they have taken advantage of the shortsightedness of Negro leaders and cheated loyal supporters of their reward.

Lloyd Stark, elected governor as a Democrat, and Forrest Donnell, elected governor as a Republican, illustrate the Missouri attitude toward the Negro. The former went into office and out of it without having let a single Negro delegation talk with him. It goes without saying that a public official with that attitude, had no intention of serving all citizens alike. The Stark administration admitted in court that the state had not given Negroes their legal rights and then defended that neglect by excuses and subterfuges that shame representative government.

OCT 9 - 1942

Bearing in mind the Stark record, consider the one being made by Gov. Donnell. As the leader of the opposition party, he has had a golden opportunity to prove to Negroes that his party is different. Private business, faced with the loss of employes to war industries, is employing Negroes. The state, like local units of government, also has lost hands to private employers and the draft. The Governor could put Negroes to work. That employment whether in outstanding jobs given for the first time, or ordinary ones in unprecedented quantity, would decide Negroes' choice in November. Judging from what Negro Republican leaders did last spring, the Governor has not been shown this opportunity to play good politics, and he has not seen it for himself.

Governor Donnell's administration is running true to the Missouri tradition concerning Negroes. Though it knows that public services, such as schools for Negroes, are not what they should be, time officials who treat them with that having been admitted in a court of record, yet the school authorities under Donnell do no more to make them equal now than they did under Stark.

Not only in public employment but in public services, there is need of a new deal for Negroes. Their own leaders, both Republican and Democratic, should

OCT 9 - 1942

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.



LEGISLATOR—
Atty. Edwin Kenswil of St. Louis who was elected to the Missouri house of representatives in last Tuesday's election. He will be the first Negro in the Missouri legislature since 1939.

* * * * * *

St. Louis Elects a Legislator

Nov. 13, 1942

Edward Kenswil, Democrat, to Missouri House

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — St. Louis elected a Negro to the state legislature, Edwin Kenswil, a Democrat. George Carper, a Republican, who also ran for the legislature, was defeated. Kenswil was the only Negro Democrat elected as the Republicans made big gains in St. Louis and in St. Louis county.

Dr. G. J. Dixon, Republican, defeated Frank Bledsoe, Democrat, in the race for justice of the peace for the fourth district; and in the fifth district Justice of the Peace Crittenden Clark, Republican, was reelected. Two Republican constables were reelected in St. Louis, William A. Morant and Langston Harrison, and a third Republican, Ellis Jones, defeated Jordan W. Chambers, Democrat, in the fifth district.

Walthall M. Moore was the last Negro to go to the legislature from St. Louis. He was elected in 1927 and served two terms. L. Amasa Knox of Kansas City was elected to the state legislature in 1929 and served one term.

52a-1942
Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

Jersey Man Runs For US Senate

For the first time in recent New Jersey history, a Negro will make a serious bid for a seat in the US senate as a representative of the "garden state." Lorenzo Harris, Asbury Park, is the candidate for November election on an independent ticket.

Organizational backing will come from the Progressive Colored Democratic Association of New Jersey. A feature of the Harris program will be a "front porch" campaign, with all statements and interviews emanating from the candidate's front porch headquarters, Asbury Park, according to Roger M. Tucker, campaign manager.

The organization has placed the name of Harris in nomination because the Democratic party has failed to give recognition to official party organizations of Negro voters. Frederick W. Martin, publisher and publicity director, reports that the organization also is opposed to the practice of appointing Negroes to political jobs on a paternalistic basis, rather than on the recommendation of the voters through their own incorporated organizations.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Negro Candidate In New Jersey Running For U.S. Senate To Aid In Defeat Of Senator Smathers

ASBURY PARK, N. J.—United States Senator William H. Smathers will win the Democratic nomination as candidate for re-election; but he will be defeated in the November general election by the large bloc in 14 counties, comprising 85 per cent of the Negro Democratic voters in the state, who will support the candidate of the Progressive Colored Democratic Association of New Jersey, Lorenzo Harris, Asbury Park artist and author and the colored organization's candidate to oppose Senator Smathers, to a large gathering of representatives from various sections of the state Sunday afetrnoon. The meeting at his home, 133 Sylvan avenue, was an informal conference to discuss plans for a concerted campaign which will be launched after the primaries.

Senator Smathers was vigorously denounced by Harris, who charged that organized labor in New Jersey could discover in Senator Smathers' attitude towards the Progressive Colored Democraic Association a dangerous threat to the basic principle of collective bargaining.

Stating that he would poll between 60,000 and 75,000 votes which he said would be sufficient margin to prevent the re-election of Senator Smathers, Harris predicted that his candidacy would gain state-wide support from many quarters as the campaign progressed.

Union Policy Rapped

"Senator Smathers is either cold, lukewarm or does not comprehend the basic philosophy of trade unionism," Harris declared. "No man is considered a true friend of the labor movement today who is opposed or indifferent to the principle of collective bargaining. That principle is the heart of trade unionism. It involves the basic idea that any group of workers or people banded together for their group's economic or political advancement and protection shall be free to organize; and after their conclusions have been duly decided upon any issue, their chosen spokesmen or representatives shall be accredited recognition in all negotiations concerning the interests of their group."

"Senator Smathers knew that the Progressive Colored Democratic Association of New Jersey was the elected collective bargaining agency for the majority of the colored Democrats of this state, geographically and numerically. The Senator ignored this group, slapping them in the face by bargaining with and giving preferential recognition to a minority clique who, in the terms of labor language, represented a "company union' or an 'employer-hand-picked group'."

"In any labor group in America," the speaker continued, "this kind of action is considered treason to the collective bargaining principle, and, if permitted to continue unchallenged, will sound the death knell of labor's unity and progress. Any self - respecting union would, of necessity, immediately call a strike as that would be their only weapon of defense against boss domination of their aspirations and program.

"This is precisely what the Progressive Colored Democratic Association of New Jersey is doing. We are calling a strike. We will not bolt the Party. We will vote for a Democrat, a Jeffersonian Democrat whose long years of faithful service, loyalty to the principles of our party and to our great President in the Capitol of our great nation are too well known to be questioned by anyone in this state. We may not elect our candidate but we will repudiate Smathers; and by this ballot strike we will strengthen our position and secure for our group similar benefits and improvements as organized labor has done in industrial strikes.'

Opposition Determined

"There must be nothing emotional about this decision and determination to vote for our own candidate against Smathers,' advised Harris. "This is the only logical and realistic thing to do. Any other course will be cowardly, slavish and indicative of inaptitude in dealing with a crisis in the association's history. In the meeting of the Progressive Colored Democratic Association when this strike against Smathers was called, the delegates from the 14 counties represesnted were aunaaimous in agreeing that any other action would be unfitting and unworthy of the dignity of those pioneer militant rebels who bolted the ranks of the Republican Party and persuaded others to do the same in protest against a policy of bamboozelling, neglecting and generally taking the Negro vote for granted."

"Labor leaders who want to be consistent," Harris warned, "might well ponder this weakening attitude of Senator Smathers on this cardinal labor ideal of collective bargaining. Organized labor cannot carry water on both shoulders. Labor cannot consider collective bargining as its very life's blood streams and damn 'boss-controlled-unions' as its dangerous enemies if they condone by silence now this attack on the identical principle directed against another minority group movement. Smathers must and will be defeated for his apostacy. Organized labor should go on record as taking part in this defeat to be consistent with its preachment."

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

SPLENDID APPOINTMENTS

JAN 16 1942

Mr. Hogan, the new District Attorney of New York, has won a warm place in the hearts of Negroes not only of his own city and state but of the nation by his action in re-appointing to the staff of assistants the colored lawyers, who with him, served so notably in the administration of the redoubtable Thomas E. Dewey. JAN 16 1942

In Frances E. Rivers who was given an advance in status and also a raise in salary from $7,500 to $10,000 a year, the office has one of the most brilliant lawyers of the Negro race. In Mrs. Eunice Carter, the office has a woman lawyer of proved capability in handling one of the largest bureaus maintained by the District Attorney. Mr. Yeargen is the other colored lawyer appointed by Mr. Dewey and retained by Mr. Hogan. JAN 16 1942

Thomas E. Dewey, who made these appointments, originally did so on the basis of the ability of the appointees and as an expression of his unshaken belief in being fair to all elements of the population of New York.

It is no secret that none among present day political leaders has a stronger hold on the affection of the Negro race than Thomas E. Dewey. It is very gratifying to note that his able assistant, who succeeds to the District Attorney's office, is also to share in the admiration the colored race has for his chief, and solely because Mr. Hogan, also believes in rewarding merit, without regard to race or creed.

We congratulate Messrs. Rivers, Yeargen and Mrs. Carter on being reappointed to responsible positions on the staff of the most noted District Attorney in the nation.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

3 RE-ELECTED TO SEATS IN N.Y. ASSEMBLY

Harlem Editor Almost Wins Close State Senator Contest

NOV 14 1942

NEW YORK. — (ANP)— Harlem showed a decided inclination to break away from the Democratic fold last Tuesday when two out of the three predominantly Negro districts of the city voted heavily for the election of Thomas E. Dewey the successful candidate for governor. In the same breath the voters nearly upset two of the three Negro Democratic assemblymen and came close to electing its first Negro state senator. NOV 14 1942

Hulan E. Jack won a hands-down victory over his Republican opponent for the assembly, Lassen L. Walsh, with 6,596 votes to 2,344. Jack had the endorsement of the A.L.P. also. Daniel Burrows, incumbent and also party leader of the 19th A.D., was re-elected by the skin of his teeth. Joseph A. Bailey, practically an unknown and lacking in campaign funds, beat Burrows on the straight Democratic ticket but lost out because the later's name appeared on the A.L.P. line of the machine also. The totals were Burrows 5,747; Bailey, 5,031.

The veteran William T. Andrews narrowly made it also. His count was 7,652, just 702 votes more than the 6,950 won by Harold C. Burton, the Republican district leader for the 21st. Andrews too had the A.L.P. nomination which saved the day for him.

Ludlow Werner, managing editor of the New York Age, making his first bid for public office, gave Charles Perry, white, the closest race he has had for the state senate. The vote is still in dispute. Running as a Republican, Werner garnered 14,743 votes to Perry's 15,232. NOV 14 1942

DIGGS RE-ELECTED IN MICHIGAN

DETROIT. — (ANP)—State Sen. Charles C. Diggs, was elected to serve his fourth term in the Michigan state legislature, beating his opponent on the Republican ticket by some 18,000 votes, possibly the largest vote ever cast in he second senatorial district.

GAIN THREE SEATS IN OHIO ASSEMBLY

CLEVELAND — (ANP)—Republicans throughout the state recorded a smashing victory for the party sweeping into office the entire ticket, including three Negro candidates for the legislative assembly. They are the Rev. David Turpeay of Cincinnati; the Rev. Sandy F. Ray of Columbus; and Atty. Chester K. Gillespie of Cleveland.

Atty. Gillespie, a veteran of two terms in the house, was returned to office by a vote upwards of 109,662 in a district where slim hopes were held for a Republican candidate. The lawyer known as a vote-getter and able legislator, captured his seat with a tally far ahead of opposing candidates.

In the heavily partisan Hamilton county covering Cincinnati, Rev. Turpeay scored an easy victory with a total of 110,353 ballots. He is serving his second term in the legislature. NOV 14 1942

At Columbus voters were congratulating themselves on returns indicating that the Rev. Sandy F. Ray, pastor of Shiloh Baptist church had won by a handsome margin in Franklin county. The minister is a newcomer to the city but has attracted a strong following because of his militancy in the fight for Negro rights.

52c-1942
The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

NEW YORK

'Politics as Usual' Hit by Powell in City Council

JUN 3 1942

Councilman A. Clayton Powell, Manhattan Laborite, took the City Council to task yesterday for carrying on politics-as-usual.



A. Clayton Powell

The Harlem Negro Councilman charged that all "good" legislative measures proposed by the minority of the Council had been exploited and killed by the majority members.

Other measures, he said, had been "buried" by the majority, headed by Joseph T. Sharkey, Majority leader and Vice-President.

Councilman Powell's argument proceeded a vote on a resolution of Councilman Sharkey calling on the Mayor to end the six-day work week order for municipal employes.

The council voted unanimously to rescind the Mayor's six-day work order.

Meanwhile the Council received five emergency revenue bills, sponsored by Council Chairman Newbold Morris, and sent them to committee. The bills are aimed to continue emergency tax collection to care for the city's unemployed.

Introduced at the Council meeting was the resolution by Peter V. Cacchione, Brooklyn Communist, for a check-off of 10 per cent of the councilmen's salary for the purchase of war bonds. The resolution was sent to the committee on rules.

Stanley M. Isaacs, Manhattan Independent, assailed Jim Crow practices against Negroes who tried to train for nurses in city hospitals.

In a resolution he charged "Negro nurses have been employed only in very limited numbers" in city hospitals.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

New Brooklyn Member On Higher Education Board



Orrin G. Judd
The New York Times

Orrin G. Judd, attorney and son of a member of the law firm headed by Wendell L. Willkie, was sworn in by Mayor La Guardia at City Hall yesterday as a member of the Board of Higher Education to succeed Lauson H. Stone, who resigned to enter the Army.

Mr. Judd will receive no salary in his new position. He will fill out Mr. Stone's unexpired term, which runs until June 30, 1949. Mr. Judd lives with his wife at 275 Clinton Avenue, Brooklyn, and will serve as a member of the board from that borough. His father, B. A. Judd, is a member of the Willkie law firm at 25 Broad Street. The new appointee practices law at 1 Wall Street.

The Mayor also swore in Frank R. Crosswaith, 50-year-old Negro labor leader whose appointment as a member of the New York City Housing Authority was announced last week. Mr. Crosswaith will fill the unexpired term of Gerard Swope, which ends on Feb. 17, 1945, and will serve without salary. The appointee is general organizer for the International Ladies Garment Workers Union and is a leader in the right wing of the American Labor party. He lives at 319 West 125th Street.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Mayor Names Negro Judge To Home Court

Hubert T. Delany, for the past eight years the only Negro member of the City Tax Commission, was appointed by Mayor LaGuardia Saturday to a judgeship in the Domestic Relations Court.

Justice Delaney fills a vacancy created when Presiding Justice John Warren Hill entered the military service and will serve until Oct. 31, 1944.

The new justice was born in Raleigh, N. C., 41 years ago. He is chairman of the Civilian Defense Council, West Harlem-Riverside Division, Civilian Defense Volunteer Office and a member of the national board of directors, United Service Organizations.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Mayor Appoints Hubert T. Delany As Judge Of Court Of Domestic Relations; 5th Negro Judge Here

New York City got its fifth Negro judge on Saturday when Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia appointed Tax Commissioner Hubert T. Delany, prominent lawyer, as Justice of the Domestic Relations Court to fill the vacancy created by the entrance of Presiding Justice John Warren Hill into the armed forces of the United States.

Justice Delany was sworn in to serve until October 31, 1944, at an annual salary of $12,000 a year. Present at the ceremony in City Hall Saturday were Mrs. Nanny James Delany, 82-year-old mother of the Justice, and a sister, Miss Sarah L. Delany.

While rumors had been rife for more than a year that Mayor LaGuadia would appoint another Negro to the bench, there was no confirmation of it until Friday afternoon when the Mayor paid a surprise visit to the annual meeting of the City Tax Commission and announced that he was going to appoint Commissioner Delany as a judge the following day.

The new justice was born in Raleigh, N. C., son of Mrs. Nanny James Delany and the late Bishop Henry B. Delany. He attended school in New York City graduating from the College of the City of New York in 1923 and from New York University Law School in 1926. He was admitted to the New York State bar the same year.

In 1927 he was appointed by Charles H. Tuttle as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York. During his five years in that office he prosecuted successfully 498 out of 500 criminal cases and was urged to remain an additional six months as special prosecutor when he resigned in 1932 to return to private practice. In 1928 he was Republican candidate for Congress in the 21st Congressional District and one of his most ardent supporters in that campaign was Mayor LaGuardia who was then Congressman from the 20th District.

When Mayor LaGuardia took office on January 1, 1934, one of his first official appointments was that of Attorney Delany to the City Board of Taxes and Assessments at a salary of $10,800 a year. When the new city charter created the Tax Commission he was named a member of the commission, remaining in that position until his appointment to the Bench on Saturday.

Justice Delany is a widower, his wife, Mrs. Clarissa Delany, daughter of Dr. Emmett J. Scott, former secretary-treasurer of Howard University, passing away in 1918. With his adopted son, William Logan Delany, now a student at Fisk University, he lives at 133 West 145th street.

Active in civic and social affairs, Justice Delany is chairman of the Civilian Defense Council of the West Harlem-Riverside Division of the CDVO. He is a member of the national board of directors of the USO and of the YMCA. He is a lifelong Republican and a member of the law firm of Mintzer, Todarelli, Klein and Delany, 30 Pine street.

FIFTH NEGRO JUDGE

Justice Delany on his appointment because the fifth Negro judge in New York City, two others, Justice Jane Bolin, of the Domestic Relations Court, and Justice Myles A. Paige, of the Court of Special Sessions, also having been appointed by Mayor LaGuardia. Two other judges, Justices James S. Watson and Charles E. Toney, both Democrats, are serving their second terms of ten years by election in the Tenth Municipal Court District.

Throughout the city there was wide applause for the Mayor for his latest appointment of a Negro to the bench. The Mayor gave no inkling of who will succeed Judge Delany in the Tax Commission.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Is Fifth Of Race To Win Seat On Gotham Bench

NEW YORK, N. Y.—In a surprise move which added another outstanding chapter to a brilliant career in New York City's administration, Tax Commissioner Hubert T. Delaney was sworn in by Mayor LaGuardia as a justice in the Court of Domestic Relations Saturday afternoon.

Only witnesses to the ceremony conducted at City Hall, was Mr. Delaney's 82-year old mother, Mrs. Nannie Delaney, and his sister, Miss Sarah L. Delaney. The appointment came as a surprise to most New Yorkers. It brought to five the total number of Negro judges in New York City.

Others are: Judge Myles A. Paige, magistrate court; Judge E. Toney, municipal court; Judge James S. Watson, municipal court, and Judge Jane E. Bolin, domestic relations court.

NATIVE OF RALEIGH

Justice Delaney was appointed to fill the vacancy created when Judge John Warren Hill joined the armed forces of the United States. He will not act as presiding justice. He is to serve until October 31, 1944, at an annual salary of $12,000.



Judge Delaney

The new justice, a native of Raleigh, N. C., graduated from City College of New York in 1923, and from New York University's Law School in 1926. He was admitted to the New York State bar the same year.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

He rose rapidly as a barrister in New York and served for five years as assistant United States District Attorney, for the Southern district of New York, criminal division, during which time he compiled an impressive record of convictions, prosecuting successfully 498 out of 500 cases. He retired to return to private practice with Mintzer, Tuttrelli, Kleid and Delaney.

He campaigned for congressman in 1928 and one of his staunchest supporters was then Congressman F. H. LaGuardia. Subsequently, Judge Delaney lent his influence to the election of LaGuardia as mayor.

The mayor called Mr. Delaney back into public life in 1933 when he named him to the tax commission, marking the first time a Negro had ever held that position. He held this position until he was sworn in as a judge on Saturday.

The 41-year old justice is the son of the late Suffragan Bishop H. B. Delaney, of Raleigh, widely known Episcopal prelate, and Mrs. Nannie J. Delaney, for years dean of women at St. Augustine's College, where the Delaneys lived. He is one of several sons and daughters who have achieved notably in their respective fields.

A brother, Dr. L. T. Delaney, is an outstanding physician in Raleigh. A sister and brother, Bessie and Henry, are Harlem dentists; another brother, Samuel is a well established mortician in Harlem; and a sister, Laura, is engaged in the public school system of this city.

Justice Delaney was married to the daughter of Dr. Emmett J. Scott, who died ten years ago. He has not remarried. He has one son, William Logan Delaney.

He is chairman of the Civilian Defense Council of the West Harlem Riverside division of the CDVO and also a member of the national board of directors of the USO. He resides at 133 West 145th Street, Manhattan.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

COMMISSIONER APPOINTED TO FAMILY COURT

Tax Chief Assigned To Take Over Duties Of Former Judge Hill

NEW YORK. — (ANP) — Hubert T. Delany, 41, a member of the city tax commission since 1934, Saturday was appointed a justice of the domestic relations court to fill the vacancy caused by the absence of Presiding Judge John Warren Hill who has joined the army as major.

The second Negro to be named by Mayor LaGuardia to the domestic relations court bench, he was sworn in Saturday at the city hall in the presence of his mother, Mrs. Nanny J. Delaney, 82, and his sister, Miss Sarah L. Delaney.

Miss Jane M. Bolin was appointed by the mayor three years ago to a term that expires in 1949. The term to which Judge Delaney was named ends in 1944. However, he will not act as presiding justice despite filling the term of the former presiding justice.

Born in Raleigh, N. C., he was graduated from City College in 1923 and from the New York university law school in 1926, being admitted that same year to the bar. He was an assistant U.S. district attorney for five years and then retired to civil practice. He re-entered public service in 1934 when the mayor named him to the tax commission.

Justice Delany is a member of the civilian defense council of the West Harlem-Riverside division of the CDVO and also a member of the national board of directors of the USO.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

H. T. Delany Named Justice In New York City

Second Negro To Be Named to Bench By LaGuardia

NEW YORK, Aug. 4 (ANP) — Hubert T. Delany, 41, a member of the city tax commission since 1934, Saturday was appointed a justice of the domestic relations court to fill the vacancy caused by the absence of Presiding Judge John Warren Hill who has joined the army as major.

The second Negro to be named by Mayor LaGuardia to the domestic relations court bench, he was sworn in Saturday at the city hall in the presence of his mother, Mrs. Nanny J. Delany, 82 and his sister, Miss Sarah L. Delany.

Miss Jane M. Bolin was appointed by the mayor three years ago to a term that expires in 1949. The term to which Judge Delany was named ends in 1944. However, he will not act as presiding justice despite filling the term of the former presiding justice.

Born in Raleigh, North Carolina, he was graduated from City college in 1923 and from the New York university law school in 1926, being admitted that same year to the bar. He was an assistant U. S. district attorney for five years and then retired to civil practice. He re-entered public service in 1934 when the mayor named him to the tax commission.

Justice Delany is a member of the civilian defense council of the West Harlem-Riverside division of the CDVO and also a member of the national board of directors of the USO.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

THE NEW JUSTICE OF THE FAMILY COURT

CONGRATULATIONS are in order for both Mayor LaGuardia and one of Harlem's outstanding citizens, Hon. Hubert T. Delany, who was recently sworn in as a justice of the Domestic Relations Court, better known as the Family Court. The promotion for the youthful Harlemite was deserved and was earned through the ability and skill he has shown in the handling of the difficult tax problems of the City of New York as a member of the Tax Commission since 1934.

He was one of the first appointees of Mayor LaGuardia and has always had his full confidence and support. Although only 41, Justice Delany has been a pioneer for his race in several difficult jobs since he became a lawyer in 1927. Before he was 30, he became one of the chief assistants to the Hon. Charles H. Tuttle when he was the U. S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and he was also the first member of his race to serve in so important a post as Commissioner of Taxes and Assessments. In between he found time to make the race as the Republican candidate for Congress from the 21st Congressional District in 1928, and to build up a large private practice, numbering among his clients Marian Anderson, Cab Calloway, E. Simms Campbell, and several other well known personages. He has also been active in the work of the Y. M. C. A., the USO, the National Urban League and other civic organizations.

About Mayor LaGuardia, the opinion in some quarters is that he has been "disintegrating" for the past few years, but we venture the opinion that it will be a long time before this city and country will have another Mayor to match his record. His squareness on the race question has been a source of gratification to Negroes not only in New York but also throughout the country.

52c-1942
Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Suggestions to Councilman Powell

JAN 10 1942

With an earnest, kindly word of caution we congratulate New York's first colored councilman, Adam C. Powell, as he begins his two-year term of office. It is a grand opportunity for service to his people, city and country that confronts him. He has the ability, courage and popular support to render that service. We believe and hope that he will rise to the occasion. He has the confidence and prayers of this entire community and all its friends as he takes his seat in the Legislative branch of New York City's government. As a successful preacher in politics, he begins his service with that added prestige. How effective his tenure of office will be depends entirely upon how effectively in and out of the council chamber he uses these natural advantages.

5-2c JAN 10 1942

As a lawmaker, his community is aware that it is not his function to enforce the laws. Harlem realizes also that the Board of Estimate, composed of the Mayor, the Comptroller, the President of the Council and the five Borough Presidents is the executive branch of the city government. The approval of the Board of Estimate and the signature of the Mayor, except in the case of an overridden veto, is necessary to complete the passage of a New York City law. The appropriation of money and the spending of the money by the city's government is done by the Board of Estimate. The courts and the police and sheriff enforce the law.

Still, the position of City Councilman of New York at this time is a powerful one. The possibilities of its service are tremendous. A councilman's power depends practically upon the mutual cooperation of his colleagues first, and equally important upon the cooperation of his home community. The personal prestige of the councilman may depend upon his character and conduct, but the great good that he can do depends primarily upon the solidity of the support of his constituents which depends in turn upon the practical unselfish service he renders them. We have been, we are now behind you, Councilman Powell!

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Rivers To Continue Law Post

JAN 10 1942

NEW YORK CITY—Francis E. Rivers who served four years under Thomas E. Dewey as assistant district attorney was re-appointed to that office last week by the new District Attorney Frank J. Hogan at a salary increased to $10,000 a year.

Increase in Rivers' salary range from $7500 to $10,000 is based on merit alone. Mr. Rivers' expert prosecution of topflight criminal cases, including first degree murder trials, so impressed Hogan that he told this newspaper in an interview Monday in the new streamlined Criminal Courts building: JAN 10 1942

Comment On Skill

'In the last case that Mr. Rivers s c kut file—RIVERS to s c J. 1. tried at least half the jurors commented on his skill after the case was over. JAN 10 1942

"They lauded his sincerity and the manner in which he presented his testimony and all of them urged me to retain him and utilize his services.

NEW YORK

"However, I never had any other idea since August 1 when I was first designated as a candidate for this office. He is one of my ablest trial lawyers and it would distress me not to have him stay on my staff. He has done exceptional work the last four years and I am counting heavily upon him during my administration."

Highest Paid

Rivers is the highest paid colored assistant district attorney in the country past or present. However, his cases are by no means limited as to race. This week he opens murder trial of an Italian and recently he finished up a trial in which a Chinaman was the defendant.

The New York District Attorney's office has three assistants at $12,000 a year; eight at $10,000 and seven at $7,500. Mr. Rivers thus has been promoted from the lower to the next higher salary bracket.

Hogan also announced that Mrs. Eunice Hunton Carter has been retained at her $6500 a year position as Adolescent Offender's Research assistant and James M. Yergan in his $3000 a year assistant's post.

—A Colored Judge—



FRANCIS E. RIVERS

Time
Chicago, Illinois
NEW YORK

Harlem's First

JAN 12 1942

Harlem's 200,000-odd Negroes had their first representative in the New York City Council this week, and the Rev. Adam Clayton Powell Jr. took another step toward becoming the popular hero of U.S. Negroes.

Tall (6 ft. 4 in.), husky (210 lb.), young (33), Adam Powell is handsome, light-skinned, a fluent speaker, a good showman. He went to Colgate University, hurled the javelin on the track team, worked summers as a redcap in Manhattan's Grand Central Terminal. After a year in theological seminary, he stepped into a ready-made job as assistant pastor of his father's Abyssinian Baptist Church, whose 14,000 members are the largest Protestant congregation in the world. JAN 12 1942

When his father retired four years ago, Powell took over—against the protest of oldsters who had been shocked by his marriage to a radio and nightclub singer, considered him a little too fancy and convivial for a preacher. His sermons dealt with everyday Harlem problems like high rents, jobs, the numbers racket. Afterward he stood in front of his pulpit, kissing the women of his congregation.

He made friends outside the church as well as in. He led a picket line of 10,000 to protest the firing of six Negro doctors at Harlem Hospital, led strikes against landlords who charged Harlem's high rents. He established a committee which has picketed 125th Street stores refusing jobs to Negroes, boasts now that his committee has increased Harlem's annual income by $1,000,000. JAN 12 1942

Until he ran for Councilman, on a spur-of-the-moment decision, he had been only a sideline politico. His campaign amazed Manhattan politicians. With no machine support, he ran third among six Councilmen elected in New York City. Helpfully, he mailed 200,000 sample ballots to voters, showing how to mark the complicated proportional representation ballot. In Harlem, which gave him some 50,000 No. 1 votes, there were fewer spoiled ballots than anywhere else in the city.

If New York Congressional districts are revised, as seems likely, Councilman Powell may turn up in Washington as Harlem's first Congressman.



Carl Mydans

REV. ADAM POWELL JR.
. . . hurls a javelin for the Lord.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Powell Sworn In by Mayor As Councilman

JAN 6 - 1942

First Negro to Hold City Council Office Takes Seat Today

Dr. Adam Clayton Powell Jr., surrounded by his family and by hundreds of persons from the congregation of the Abyssinian Baptist Church, was yesterday sworn in by Mayor LaGuardia at City Hall as New York's first Negro Councilman.

The ceremony, which took place exactly at noon in the Mayor's office, was brief, Mr. LaGuardia reading the oath while Dr. Powell held up his right hand. Beside him stood his mother, his father, former pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church, of which the new Councilman is now the head, Mrs. Adam Clayton Powell Jr., his wife, and Joseph E. Ford, executive secretary of the Coordinating Committee for Employment, one of many organizations controlled by Dr. Powell's church.

The Negro Councilman will meet with the rest of his colleagues tomorrow, when the new City Council convenes officially for the first time.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Successor To Dewey Names Aides

JAN 10 1942

JAN 10 1942

NEW YORK—Frank S. Hogan, who took the oath on January 1 as district attorney for New York County, succeeding the famous rackets buster, Thomas E. Dewey, announced on Saturday the reappointment of three Negro assistants who had served under Mr. Dewey during the past four years. They were among 68 out of 74 of Mr. Dewey's former aides who were retained.

Francis E. Rivers, who has just completed four highly successful years as a trial specialist in murder cases in the Court of General Sessions, was rewarded with a substantial increase in salary, from $7,500 to $10,000 per annum. He ranks as an assistant district attorney, a distinction enjoyed by only nineteen other members of Mr. Hogan's staff. He is attached to the Homicide Bureau.

Mrs. Eunice Hunton Carter, only colored woman ever to serve on the staff, was reappointed as a deputy assistant district attorney at her some old salary, $6,500. She is attached to the Adolescent Offenders Research Bureau.

The third race member is James M. Yergan, who has been highly commended for his courtroom work on murder cases. Yergan ranks as a deputy assistant and will receive $3,000 per annum.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

LOSES POST AS CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSIONER

FEB 14 1942

Mayor Charges Board With 'Insubordination' After Wrangle

BULLETIN

NEW YORK — Ferdinand Q. Morton, only Negro member of the civil service commission which was fired by Mayor Fiorello La Guardia who charged it with "insubordination" and "unbecoming conduct," was exonerated Monday. Morton, it was explained, was ill at time decision leading to charges was made by commission.

FEB 14 1942

NEW YORK—(ANP)—The long career of Ferdinand Q. Morton, as the only Negro ever to be a member of the Municipal Civil Service commission, came to an abrupt end Friday when he and the other two members of the commission were suspended by Mayor Fiorella H. LaGuardia.

FEB 14 1942

Pres. Paul J. Kern and Wallace S. Sayre are the others. The trio were scheduled for a hearing before the mayor on Monday, a preliminary step required by the city charter.

The commissioners were charged with "insubordination" and "unbecoming conduct," and provoked the mayor's wrath when they engaged in an inter-departmental dispute with William C. Chanler, corporation counsel, who refused to represent them in the appeal of a case involving alleged political appointees.

FEB 14 1942

Commissioner Morton, an old time Democrat who years ago brought influence to himself when through his leadership he developed the strongest party vote ever achieved in Harlem prior to the advent of Franklin D. Roosevelt, still had until May 31, 1942, before his $6,500 job expired. This was his fourth appointment to the four-year term.

Upon the expiration of his term in 1938 considerable speculation existed as to whether Mayor LaGuardia would reappoint him. And because the majority thought he would not, and through the desire that a Negro should be on the commission, any number of "eligibles" indicated their ambitions.

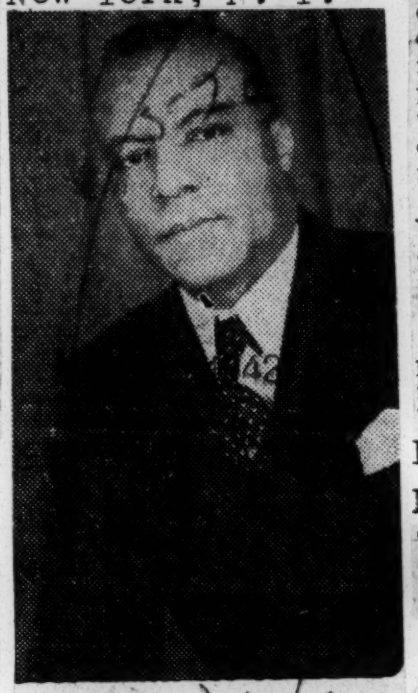
This is said to have so angered the mayor that he considered it better to rename Morton.

During his terms of office Commissioner Morton is said to have established an enviable record in that very important department of the city.

FEB 14 1942

While Harlem is at a loss to point to anything he may have done of a significant nature so far as they are concerned, it is common knowledge that "every Irishman on the police force" owes something to Morton.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.



MAY 2 1942

NAMED TO HOUSING AUTHORITY . . . A. Philip Randolph, international president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and director of the March-on-Washington Movement, who was appointed a member of the New York City Housing Authority by Mayor LaGuardia, this week.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Name John A. Davis Labor Discrimination Inspector In State

MAY 9 - 1942

John A. Davis, 3011 Gunther avenue, the Bronx, has been appointed Labor Discriminations Inspector on the field staff of the Committee on Discrimination in Employment, Industrial Commissioner Frieda S. Miller, chairman of the committee, announced on Wednesday. Mr. Davis, who left New York last September to serve as professor of Political Science at Lincoln University, Lincoln University, Pa., will return to begin his duties with the committee on May 11.

The field staff of the Committee on Discrimination was established last February 1, and is under the supervision of Andrew C. Doyle, former director of Upstate activities of the State Mediation Board. Its members investigate all complaints of discrimination in employment made against a war industries in the state. On the basis of their findings decisions may be made to prosecute firms under the provisions of the Mahoney Act, which prohibits discrimination in defense employment because of race, color or religion.

A graduate of Williams College, Williamstown, Mass., Mr. Davis received his master of arts degree from the University of Wisconsin. He has competed his work, except his dissertation, for a doctor of philosophy degree in public administration and law at Columbia University.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Randolph Declines Housing Post

MAY 30 1942

A. Philip Randolph has declined the appointment to the New York City Housing Authority made April 26 by Mayor Fiorella H. LaGuardia, it was learned by The New York Age on Monday.

Mr. Randolph's declination of the appointment was made in a telegram he sent while in San Antonio, Tex., on a speaking tour recently and he followed it with a letter to the Mayor expressing regrets at his inability to accept the proffered appointment, saying he felt that the position was too important for anyone to fill who did not have the proper time to devote to discharge of official duties.

MAY 9 1942

At the present time, Mr. Randolph, who is international president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, is busy mobilizing sentiment of Negroes behind the March on Washington Movement's mass meeting which will be held at Madison Square Garden on June 16, to focus attention on the fight for real democracy for Negroes.

The March on Washington Movement last year cancelled its scheduled march on the nation's capitol after President Roosevelt agreed to issue an executive order banning racial discrimination in private industries holding war contracts and in branches of the government.

MAY 30 1942

Sponsors of the movement feel that the President's executive order has helped considerably in the fight for democracy but declare that there is still too great a degree of prejudice in this country."

"The Negro is in no mood," says the committee, "for relinquishing his efforts in acquiring all democratic rights insured to all Americans," and the New York rally is the first of a series of mass meetings that are to be held in cities throughout the country, including Chicago and Washington, D. C.

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

Elmer A. Carter Only Negro War Council Member

SEP 23 1942

SEP 23 1942

With all racial elements represented, including one Negro, Elmer Anderson Carter, editor of Opportunity magazine, and member of the Unemployment Insurance Appeal Board of the New York State Labor Department, the New York State War Council, of which Gov. Herbert H. Lehman is chairman, is said to be the most democratic war council in the country.

Mr. Carter, who is the son of a Methodist minister and a graduate of Harvard University, is the only Negro to sit in official capacity in any War Council of any state in the nation, according to a New York OWI official.

Miss Helen Nolan, executive director of the New York State War Information Service, says that the policy of the New York State War Council is as democratic as its membership. She cites a law against discrimination, passed by the New York State Legislature in 1941, as evidence of that

SEP 23 1942

By its passage, the OWI of- York or the Federal Government in the "production, manufacture, or distribution of military or naval material, equipment or supplies for the State of New York or any political subdivision thereof unlawful to discriminate on the grounds of race, color or creed or national origin in the employment in the "production, manufacture, or distribution of mili-

SEP 23 1942

official points out, it has become

52c-1942

NORTH CAROLINA

Memphis, Tenn. Commercial Appeal
April 17, 1942

Negro In Southern Primary

CHARLOTTE, N. C., April 16.—(AP)—Woods Morgan, negro director of a barber college here, announced Thursday his candidacy for the Legislature from Mecklenburg County (Charlotte) in the Democratic primary of May 30 on a platform designed to give negroes greater representation in public affairs.

52c - 1942

Office of Price Administration

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.
OCT 10 1942

T. ARNOLD HILL TO OPA

WASHINGTON, Oct. 8—(ANP)—T. Arnold Hill, formerly with the National Urban league, more recently with the NYA, was assigned a new post with the Office of Price Administration here last week.

52c-1942
Argus
St. Louis, Missour

CLEVELAND, OHIOAN, NAMED FOR POST BY GOVERNOR J. BRICKER

Judge Jackson Made Record

Has Outstanding Leadership

CLEVELAND, O., Aug. 26 — Governor John W. Bricker of Ohio had the courage, the conviction and the opportunity . . . so on Wednesday, he joined the increasing ranks of great Americans by appointing a Negro, Atty. Perry B. Jackson of Cleveland to the Municipal Court judgeship vainly sought by Negro leaders in Ohio for more than a half-century.

At Columbus Wednesday a history-making scene was enacted in the Governor's office. A scene that took but a few minutes to enact but which will echo and reecho through Ohio's political history for years to come. With a few of his close associates standing by Governor Bricker signed the commission that named Jackson to the Cleveland Municipal Court vacancy created by the death of Judge David Moylan. The governor then handed the commission to Lawrence O. Payne, Republican member of the Ohio Parole and Pardons Commission, who left immediately to bring it back to Cleveland, where in the offices of the Call-Post, it was presented to the happy but grave recipient of possibly the greatest honor to come to a Negro Clevelander in recent years.

Many governors prior to Bricker had had the opportunity to name a member of the Negro race to a judgeship, and all had been urged by their partisan followers to do so, but it remained for John W. Bricker to demonstrate a quality of Americanism that knows no racial or religious boundaries.

In justice to those governors who hesitated, or were "afraid" to make the appointment of a Negro to the judiciary, it must be said that Governor Bricker was given an easy choice in the appointment, for in Jackson he named a Negro who had received the unqualified endorsement of individuals and organizations of all races and political alignments.

Appointment Timely

Negro leaders in Cleveland consider the appointment as coming at a most appropriate time. It will serve they say, to uplift lagging Negro morale, lowered by the continuing barriers against the employment of Negroes in war industries, and will affect, say Republicans, a renaissance in the Republican party in Cuyahoga County, which has witnessed a perceptible drift of its once "hidebound" Republicanism to the Democratic ranks.

The appointment of Jackson "certainly demonstrates", said Atty. Lawrence O. Payne here Wednesday, "that Governor Bricker is the type of American who should be retained in office during this war crisis, when the need for unity and understanding between all races and classes is so imperative."

The Jackson appointment leaves them in high hopes of scoring a "grand slam" in the forthcoming election, in which they expect to place in the Ohio Legislature all five of the Negro candidates nominated by Republicans last week. Democrats failed to nominate a single Negro at the primaries.

OHIO
Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Ohio Attorney Is Appointed Judge

CLEVELAND—(ANP)—A Negro moved into a position sought by Ohio colored leaders for more than half a century, last week when Atty. Perry B. Jackson of this city was appointed to the municipal court judgeship by Gov. John W. Bricker.

The appointment, which was made at Columbus, Wednesday, in the governor's office, marks the first time a Negro has been named to a judgeship in Ohio. Attorney Jackson, who was endorsed by the Cleveland and Cuyahoga Bar associations, the Cleveland News and Plain Dealer and citizens of all races and political affiliations, will enter the vacancy created by the death of Judge David Moylan. He also was the choice of the Cleveland Call-Post, Ohio's largest Negro weekly, which for many years has crusaded for the appointment of a Negro judge in Ohio.

Lawrence O. Payne, Republican member of the Ohio Parole and Pardons commission, represented Governor Bricker in presenting the commission to Attorney Jackson. The appointment, demonstrates that Governor Bricker is the type of American we need to retain in office during this war crisis, when the need for unity and understanding between all races and classes is so imperative, Payne said.

Clevelanders feel that the Jackson appointment marks a new era for Negroes in Cleveland, and they believe all five of the Negro candidates nominated by Republicans last week will be elected to the Ohio legislature in the fall, it was observed.



ATTORNEY JACKSON
(Appointed to Judgeship)

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Elected



ATTY. C. K. GILLESPIE
Of Cleveland, state representative-elect, militant fighter against racial discrimination in State legislative acts and Cleveland courts, was the only Negro Republican out of five who was successful in the recent election in Democratic Cuyahoga county.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.
Probation Officer



JORDAN EWELL,
of 104 Balm Street, Harrisburg, Pa., who was named probation officer recently by Judge Robert E. Woodside. He is the first colored probation officer of Dauphin County and will have special charge of colored boys brought before juvenile court.

A graduate of Cheyney State Teachers' College, Mr. Ewell is a Mason, a member of Second Baptist Church, the Inter-racial Council and organized the Allison Hill Colored Boys' Club. He is the son of Mrs. Susan J. Ewell. He will assist Berton A. Weills, senior probation officer, and Mrs. Alice Kastner, junior probation officer.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Welcome, Elks

THE PHILADELPHIA TRIBUNE, as an old Philadelphia institution, takes pleasure and genuine pride in welcoming to Philadelphia the honored and respected INDEPENDENT, BENEVOLENT, PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS OF THE WORLD.

AUG 29 1942

At long last Philadelphia has had the experience of having a colored official serve as its Recorder of Deeds. And still the world goes on. So quietly, so efficiently were the routine details of the busy office conducted, that it caused no ripple or excitement of any kind among the populace. The honor fell to Ernest T. Wright,, who since the year of 1935 has filled the post of Deputy Recorder.

In the month of June last, death removed Frank I. Willard, Receiver of Texas. In July, City Council elected Recorder of Deeds, David W. Harris, as the new Receiver of Taxes. Subsequent to this election of Harris, Governor James appointed Councilman Charles Pommer to the vacancy created by the promotion of Harris.

Tribune Favored Wright

Upon the announcement of the death of Receiver of Taxes Willard, and the probable selection of Harris as his successor, The Philadelphia TRIBUNE forthwith brought forward the name of Deputy Recorder Wright as the logical successor to Harris as Recorder of Deeds, in the event of a vacancy. Philadelphia is the third largest city in the United States.

AUG 29 1942

Administered Office

During the interim between the election of Harris and the naming of his successor by the Governor, the duties incumbent upon the Recorder of Deeds were completely and creditably performed by Mr. Wright. Mortgages, deeds, and all instruments of record going through this busy department of the local government from July 15th, to July 20th, inclusive, in this year of our Lord 1942, bear the signature of "Ernest J. Wright, Acting Recorder of Deeds of Philadelphia County."

AUG 29 1942

Except during the two Wilson administrations, colored men have held the post of Recorder of Deeds of the District of Columbia for the past sixty-one years by presidential appointment, Frederick Douglass, appointed by President Garfield in 1881, being the first to hold the office.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.
Medical Inspector
OCT 31 1942



DR. HENRY A. STRATTON,
who was recently appointed a medical inspector for public schools. He is a member of the Philadelphia Academy of Allied Sciences, the Philadelphia County Medical Society, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and the Elks.

OCT 31 1942

52c-1942
Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

TENNESSEE

Elect Negro To Office In Tenn.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (SNS)—One of the surprises of the general election of last Thursday was the victory of Boyd B. Browder, courthouse janitor and former Vine Avenue photogarpher, who was named one of the three members of the Knox county court, representing the citys first nine wards. Browder is the first Negro to be selected a member of county court since the late 'Squire W. F. Yardley served, more than twenty-five years ago.

Browder, now nearing the age of 69, was at one time engaged in the photograph business at 310 East Vine Avenue. His ability as a photographer was widely acclaimed. Pictures of prominent people and groups were made from his studio.

In an interview furnished shortly after his election, Browder stated:

"Shortly after returning here the depression struck and my photographic business folded.

WENT TO WORK AT JAIL

"It was then that I went to work at the County Jail," he explains. "I was down and out. Carrol Cate, then sheriff, ran into me. Hazen Kreis then was his chief deputy. Mr. Cate gave me a job, as custodian. He really picked me up and fed me. I have been working down there ever since."

His acquaintances with former Negroes who have served in Knox County Court, he says, influenced him in deciding to seek the First District magistrateship.

He says the first Negro justice of the peace in Knox County was a Squire Brooks, whose daughter once taught him in school. Next was a Squire Generals, who operated a store on Central Street, whom he also knew personally. Then was Squire Will Yardley, a Negro lawyer, who ran for governor after serving as justice of the peace. And the last Negro squire was Sam Maples, whose wife taught him at one time. Maples, died about three months ago in the Hawaiian Islands.

"It must have been 50 years ago that Sam served in County Court," "I'm the first Negro to be elected to County Court since that time."

Negro Janitor Becomes Justice of the Peace

Daily Worker N.Y.N.Y.

(Special to the Daily Worker)

SEP 1 - 1942

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Aug. 31.—The Negro janitor of the county courthouse here for nearly 25 years was last week elected to the county court as justice of the peace. His name is Boyd B. Browder, and he is 69 years old. He will serve with two other justices, both of whom are white.

Elected To Bench In Courthouse Where He Was Janitor 25 Years

Michigan Chronicle

Detroit, Mich.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—(ANP)—Boyd B. Browder, janitor of the county courthouse here, was elected to the county court in the general election of last Thursday. He will serve as a justice of the peace with two other members, both of whom are white.

AUG 22 1942

Browder's election marks the first time a Negro has served the county in that capacity in almost 25 years.

The new jurist was once a photographer here and gained popularity for his unusual ability. When informed of election returns, Browder, who is nearing 69 years of age, said:

AUG 22 1942

"Shortly after returning here the depression struck and my photographic business folded.

"It was then that I went to work at the county jail. I was down and out. Hazon Krois, chief deputy sheriff, gave me a job as custodian. I have been working down there ever since."

According to Browder the first Negro to serve the county court was Squire Brooks, whose daughter taught him in the grade schools. The next Negro, he said, was Squire Generals. Then came Squire Will Yardley, a lawyer, and finally Sam Maples. Maples died in the Hawaiian Islands about three months ago, he said.

AUG 22 1942

52c-1942
Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

Negroes Should Have More City Jobs

Nov. 14, 1942

The City Manager forces which succeeded in changing the 36-year-old form of government at Houston through the City Charter Amendment last July and elected their entire slate of officers who will take charge of city affairs January 1st, are expected to give more consideration to employment of Negroes on city jobs than the former City administration.

Under the old form of government Negroes were practically excluded from all types of city employment such as common laborers, streets and ditch cleaners, and janitors. This was due to the fact the city officials were taking care of voters through the "spoils system," giving work and jobs to those who largely supported their administration.

Negroes are barred from participating in city primaries and have no vote in the election of city officers therefore, they have been denied employment and, to a large extent civic improvements in Negro sections have been neglected.

An illustration of injustice toward Negroes was made a few weeks ago when a group of white citizens complained to the City that the streets in their sections were almost impassable because of the mud holes, and filled up ditches. The City informed the committee that it could do nothing about improving the streets because of the shortage of labor due to war work. Members of the committee said they had seen a lot of Negroes on Milam Street and at the Texas Employment office, and asked why not hire them. The Street and Bridge Department then recruited a number of colored workers and put them to work on the streets. It is reported that when the labor unions learned the Negroes were at work, they sent a protest to the City. This was a short while before election so, the workers were discharged.

Sometime ago a colored committee complained to the City of bad streets in their section and a group of white laborers were dispatched to that particular area. The men quit after working but a short while, saying they would no longer work in Negro communities. Many bridges to driveways were left torn up. Property owners either fixed them or left them as they were.

The forces sponsoring the City Manager form of government promised Negro supporters to the charter amendment last July that such injustices and deplorable civic conditions in Negro sections would be alleviated under a City Manager administration.

We believe Negro citizens of Houston can render much service to the new City administration by forming a Citizens Committee composing representatives of the various colored communities to advise the administration on Negro affairs. Houston has the largest colored population of any city in the state and has more home owners among the race than any other Texas point but, in other cities Negroes are given considerable employment on city jobs especially in the lower brackets.

We realize it will take time for the new City administration to map its course of operation after January 1st and perhaps much of the improvements may not come as soon as we expect, but we have all confidence that the administration WILL BRING MUCH NEEDED IMPROVEMENT AND JUSTICE AND FAIR PLAY TOWARD NEGRO CITIZENS.

Journal and Guide 52c 1942
Norfolk, Virginia

Parole Board Head

GOVERNOR Darden has made some excellent appointments but none seem to reflect greater wisdom and foresight than his selection of Mr. William Shands Meacham to head the State Parole Board. A parole board of three members was set up by the last General Assembly, and it is a start toward the modernization of the State's penal system. The board will establish a State-wide system of probation and parole, over which Mr. Meacham will function as commissioner.

The new chairman is associate editor of the Richmond Times-Dispatch. He is a newspaperman by profession, but he has devoted much time and thought to social welfare work. His activities have included research in prison systems and methods and the causes of crime; child and family welfare, mental hygiene, and housing for low-wage earners. He is chairman of the Housing Authority for the City of Richmond, and was largely instrumental in obtaining for Richmond three low-cost housing projects, two of which are for Negro occupancy.

Mr. Meacham's interests also include the field of education. Last Spring he was elected a member of the board of trustees of Hampton Institute.

He is young and vigorous — 43 years of age — and the State may well look forward to a progressive modernization and humanization of our whole penal system through the influence which the parole board and the probation system which it will set up will exert upon the whole problem.

52c-1942
Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Dr. W. H. Dean Goes To Post In Virgin Islands

SEP 19 1942

ATLANTA, Ga.—Dr. William H. [illegible] professor of economics at Atlanta University, will leave soon for St. Thomas, U. S. Virgin Islands, to assume actively his duties as price executive and chief economist in the Virgin Islands office of the Office of Price Administration.

On leave of absence, Dr. Dean has served as consultant to the National Resources Planning Board and as visiting lecturer in economics in the City College of New York.

Recently he delivered a paper on the economic theory of location before the Economic History Association which met at Williams College, Williamstown, Mass.

SEP 19 1942

Dr. Dean's published work is used as a textbook at Harvard and Yale.

52c-1942

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Negro Elected By Six Votes To Wis. Assembly

NOV 8 - 1942

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Nov. 5—In one of the closest races for a seat in Wisconsin's state legislature, a Negro was elected by a margin of only six votes to become the first Negro member of the assembly in 34 years. Colbert, a Republican, is the second Negro in the history of the state to be elected to the state legislature.

His past is a record of achievement. In 1937 he was an aviator fighting for Spain's Loyalists, and has always been an ardent champion for Negroes and a militant fighter against discrimination. He was the only Negro to run for office in Tuesday's election

NOV 8 - 1942

The other Negro member of the Wisconsin state legislature was Lucian H. Palmer, who was also elected on the Republican ticket in 1906. Colbert had the staunch support of Negro leaders and the Negro population of the 6th ward.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Elected to Assembly

C. M. Colbert Is First Negro Member in 36 Years

Nov. 13, 1942

BY SAMUEL A. BOYEA

MADISON, Wis. — (ANP) — The lower house of the state assembly here, for the first time in 36 years and the second time in Wisconsin history, will have a Negro member. Cleveland M. Colbert, Republican, former Spanish Civil War aviator, was elected by six votes in Milwaukee's sixth district over Philip Markey, white, Progressive. Colbert, 1,465; Markey, 1,459.

The sixth assembly which returned Colbert is a midcity district with a large Negro population. In the last legislature the district was represented by the late Ben Rubin, a Socialist, elected by combined support of the Social and Progressives.

This year the vote was divided both the Socialists and Progressives having a party candidate. Rubin had two Negro opponents, a Democrat and a Republican. Rubin was elected by a plurality, but the combined vote for the Negro candidates surpossed his.

This year the situation was reversed. The Negro voters were well combined and the white candidates divided on Democratic, Progressive and Socialist tickets.

Colbert, who won his nomination over three Negroes and a white competitor in the primary election, was described by Winter Everett, associate editor and columnist of the Wisconsin State Journal, as a "man' of parts who made a good impression on both white and Negro voters in his campaign speeches. Colbert, a man of considerable education, with a pleasing personality, has been a Milwaukee resident for some 10 years and served as an aviator in the Republican army of the Spanish revolution."

The significance of Colbert's victory—the first Negro victory since Lucien Palmer (4th district) won in 1906—was that the growing independence of Negro voters in Milwaukee county had begun to assert itself. They are by a large majority all out for the war and are not friendly to former isolationists.

Source:
The New Republic
New York, N. Y.
October 12, 1942

Victims of Mr. Dies
Oct. 12, 1942

(The Dies Committee recently attacked nineteen government officials as Communists. The New Republic asked these neneteen persons to comment on the charge, and we publish below all the letters received up to the time of going to press. Others will appear as fast as they come in. -The Editors) Oct. 12, 1942

SIR: Representative Martin Dies, chairman of the Dies Committee on Un-American Activities, has accused me on the floor of the House of Representatives of being a Communist.

The absurdity of the charge ~~declined~~ me, at first, to ignore it. I fel now, however, that I should brand the accusation for what it ~~is~~--a malicious mis statement of the truth.

I do not know Representative Dies. Because of his accusation, I am positive he does not know me. To those who know me I need no statement of denial.

If Representative Dies sees fit to name me a Communist as a result of my outspoken belief in a true democracy under our American form of government, my incessant efforts in seeking for all Americans the constitutionally guaranteed rights of full citizenship regardless of race, creed or color, my endeavors to enlist the full cooperative strength of America in our victory efforts, then the names of Mr. Dies chooses to apply are to me but tinkling cymbals and sounding brass.

I shall continue along the straight, true course I have followed through all these years, and I pray some signal my sound in the mind of Mr. Dies that may awaken him to a realization that his accusations against loyal Americans will bring them but small discomfort, but can be of great comfort to out enemies.

Washington, D. C. Oct. 12, 1942
Mary McLeod Bethune

SIR: Of course I am not and never have been a Communist.

Philadelphia, Pa.
Milton V. Freeman

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

STATE DEMOCRATS RAP PARTY'S RACIAL POLICY

NOV 11 1942

MOBILE, Ala., Nov. 10—(AP)—Federal handling "of the Negro situation in the South" has made it impossible for the Democratic party to raise any substantial sum in Alabama, Gessner T. McCorvey, chairman of the State Democratic Executive Committee, wrote national party officials Tuesday.

McCorvey's letter, written to E. Ray Scott, of the treasurer's office of the Democratic National Committee, also was sent to Democratic National Chairman Edward J. Flynn.

It was in response to an appeal from the national committee for a fund raising campaign in Alabama.

The state chairman said he had talked with numerous party leaders in this state and that "I was met with the statement that it would be utterly impossible to raise any substantial sum from Alabama Democrats until we first had some definite assurance . . . that our party was going to turn over a new leaf in so far as the handling of the Negro situation in the South was concerned."

McCorvey said he was convinced any fund raising campaign was futile until "those in authority at national headquarters stop trying to work out a social revolution during war times."

NOV 11 1942

"The Negroes are our problem and we care for them in a way that they are not cared for in any other section of the country," the letter stated.

"However, we will not stand for anything even remotely resembling social equality and such a thing as having the white girls and white boys of our section working side by side with Negroes in factories or elsewhere in filling government contracts or any contracts is just unthinkable and unworkable."

McCorvey added:

NOV 11 1942

"President Roosevelt and his wife have done more towards upsetting and disturbing the friendly relations heretofore existing between the white people and the colored people of the South than all of the other presidents and their wives who have occupied the White House during the time I have been old enough to take notice of such matters."

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
November 3, 1942

NOV 1 1942

For the Democrats

Buckner, Leader of Negro Democratic Club, Issues an Appeal

To the Editor of The Chattanooga Times:

Your publication of the following will be appreciated.

To all loyal Negro Democrats of Hamilton County, permit me to make this final appeal to you before the election Tuesday, November 3. The Democratic nominees in this election are those you helped to nominate in the March and August Democratic Primaries, and you, as good Democrats are urged, not only to vote Tuesday, but I hope that you will see to it, as far as possible that all of your friends and neighbors vote also. Never before has the Negro had so much to vote for and especially true with respect to our local ticket. Congressman Kefauver, Senator French Grubb, Representatives J. B. Ragon, D. M. Coleman, and our new candidate, Mr. W. J. Eberhart. This ticket has the strong support of our County Judge, Hon. Wiley O. Couch.

President Roosevelt has issued a call to all loyal Democrats to support those members of the Congress, and the United States Senate, who have supported him and the great war program of the Government. President Roosevelt's three administrations has done more for the American Negro than all previous administrations. Therefore, I am calling upon you as good Democrats as well as good American citizens to go to the polls on Tuesday, November 3, and vote the Democratic ticket.

ROBERT B. BUCKNER,
President, Negro Democratic Club of Hamilton County.
Chattanooga.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Negro Political Question Worries Alabama Leaders

Nov. 14 1942

MOBILE, Ala. —(SNS)—Executives of the Alabama Democratic Party injected the "race issue" into party affiliations in a letter to national executives made public Armistice Day.

Gessener T. McCorvey, chairman of the State Democratic Executive Committee in a letter to E. Ray Scott, of the Democratic National Committee and Edward J. Flynn, Democratic National Chairman, said that those approached in Alabama for contributions were unwilling to give unless they had a new party declaration on "handling of the Negro situation."

The state chairman said he had talked with numerous party leaders in this state and that "I was met with the statement that it would be utterly impossible to raise any substantial sum from Alabama Democrats until we first had some definite assurance .... that our party was going to turn over new leaf in so far as the handling of the Negro situation in the South was concerned."

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"However, we will not stand for anything even remotely resembling social equality and such a thing as having the white girls and white boys of our section working side by side with Negroes in factories or elsewhere in filling government contracts or any contracts is just unthinkable and unworkable."

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"President Roosevelt and his wife have done more towards upsetting and disturbing the friendly relations heretofore existing between the white people and the colored people of the South than all of the other president and their wives who have occupied the White House during the time I have been old enough to take notice of such matters."

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

NEGRO CLUB WILL HOLD RALLY FOR SENATOR BROOKS

SEP 27 1942

The Commonwealth Independent Political league, with headquarters at 5617 Prairie avenue, will sponsor a Sen. Wayland Brooks testimonial meeting the night of Oct. 6 at 5757 South State street. Claudius A. Reid, insurance agent, is president of the league. Other officers of the league include Julius L. Morgan, 5848 Michigan avenue, R. A. Armstrong, 5757 South State street, and P. D. Campbell. The organization has a membership of about 250 Negroes.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

World's Greatest Living Woman

(From Galveston Voice)

Nov. 21, 1942

You have been following (if you could keep pace) Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of your war president, on her tour of England.

The world's FIRST LADY was in England to SEE how things were going and to repay a visit of Britain's comely queen. You doubtless read what many writers had to say about her trip thus far, particularly her arrival. One writer called attention to this highly interesting fact—Mrs. Roosevelt, did not 'curtsy" when greeted by the Queen!

As you know, it would have been out of place for the "QUEEN" of all the world to "bow" before the "QUEEN" of a dying empire. Mrs. Roosevelt is the outstanding woman of HISTORY. Go back and take a look; go as far back as you will and you won't find any woman in history who even approaches, in greatness, the gracious Mrs. Roosevelt.

The greatest friend you have in the world today is Mrs. Roosevelt. Nobody would even try to deny that FACT. The First Lady ranks Lincoln and outranks her noble, heavily-burdened husband. There was none like her when she came, there will be none like her when she goes!

Her presence in England at this time bolstered a tottering empire, fired war-weary men and women, gave HOPE to teen age youngsters and heralded to not distant dawn of a better, brighter day. Sacrificing patriots of Britain can sing moret han a popular song when they give forth with "There'll be bluebirds and clover o'er the white cliffs of Dover, tomorrow, just you wait and see"! As long as Mrs. Roosevelt is in or about England, your greatest and most helpful AMBASSADOR is on British soil.

As badly as England needed her visit, you will breathe easier when Washington, announces her return to her native shores. All you are, you may owe to Lincoln—all you HOPE to be, you owe to Eleanor Roosevelt, whom unbiased historians must dub, the GREATEST influence for good to appear on this planet in the history of HISTORY.

52d-1942
Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

NEGROES GET RECOGNITION UNDER NEW DEAL

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 29—Colored people are enjoying greater opportunities in this country under the Roosevelt administration than at any time since their emancipation, declared Senator Joseph F. Guffey, (D., Pa.), in a speech on the Senate floor recently.

President Roosevelt and his administration, the senator said, "have recognized, signalized, and honored the colored people as no other administration in this generation has done."

He listed as the two greatest documents promoting the welfare of colored people the Emancipation Proclamation and President Roosevelt's executive order forbidding racial discrimination in federal employment and establishing the Committee on Fair Employment Practice.

Senator Guffey pointed out that "through the years the many Republican administrators — the Republicans from time immemorial claiming to be the greatest friends of the Negro race—have failed to issue any executive order or to take any action of consequence equivalent in significance and importance to the Emancipation Proclamation by Lincoln and the executive order by President Roosevelt.

"The Emancipation Proclamation by Lincoln and the Executive order by President Roosevelt establishing fair employment practices and requiring a non-discrimination pledge in government contracts are outstanding events in the history of the Negro race."

Colored Workers Recognized

Senator Guffey quoted from several newspapers to substantiate his statement that colored workmen are filling various skilled jobs in war plants.

One of the articles to which he referred appeared recently in the Chicago Sun. It pointed out that colored workmen were employed as metallurgists and electricians at the eighteen International Harvester company plants, machine operators and heat treaters at the Winchester Repeating Arms company, millwrights and locomotive engineers at Carnegie-Illinois Steel company, operators in the highest paid brackets on the airplane production line of Pullman-Standard Car company, and in trusted supervisory positions at Inland Steel company.

Senator Guffey also quoted from an article in the Wall Street Journal, which noted that forty-four of the biggest aircraft factories in the country are employing more than 21,000 colored workers.

The article in the Wall Street Journal, to which he referred, also pointed out that "The National Housing agency and Federal Works agency are putting money into colored men's pockets through clauses in every construction contract providing that Negroes must be hired in proportion to local population."

Senator Guffey also read from an article which appeared in a recent edition of the Evening Star. This article commented on the fact that colored men and women are winning recognition as fighters and war workers.

"The government," the article said, 'is setting the pace by employing increasing numbers of Negro men and girls as stenographers and clerks in the rapidly expanding war agencies."

It also pointed out that the army is planning to use a substantial number of colored troops, that an all-colored division is in training at Fort Huachuca, Arizona; that a pursuit squadron composed of colored pilots and ground crew has been trained and organized at Tuskegee, Ala.; that colored sailors are being trained at Hampton, Va., and Great Lakes, Ill., and that the Marine corps is recruiting a battalion of colored men to be trained at New River, N. C.

Senator Guffey also referred to the recent launching of the "Booker T. Washington," a 10,500-ton Liberty ship, which will sail for the United States Maritime commission with a mixed crew of seamen under Captain Hugh Mulzac, of Brooklyn, a licensed colored pilot.

Gadsden, Ala., Times
October 28, 1942

Betrayal Of The South

The Democratic leaders of today were not living when Shakespeare penned the phrase "Blow, blow, thou Winter winds; thou art not more unkind than man's ingratitude," but the words could not have been more appropriate had they been written in Washington in 1942 and dedicated to those who owe their high political positions to the South.

For many years the South furnished most of the brains and most of the character to the Democratic Party, these elements serving to keep the organization alive when it was in disrepute because of the fact that the Southern wing of the party supported the South in the War Between the States.

Through many years, while the party in the North was largely local in its influence, and often became corrupt, as in New York City, the South continued to carry the torch—and to hold it high—until finally that fine, brave and able statesman, Grover Cleveland, came upon the scene and, with the Solid South behind him, achieved not one but two victories in the nation.

Thus the South was chiefly instrumental in electing the first Democrat to the Presidency to be chosen following the War Between the States, and through this action helped to revive the party and to restore it to popular confidence.

Then came some reverses, ultimately followed by the election of Woodrow Wilson, another great Democrat, statesman and patriot who reflected honor and distinction upon the party and the nation and whose election was made possible by the South upon two occasions.

The next bearer of the Democratic banner to attain the Presidency was Franklin D. Roosevelt and, as always, the South was found solidly behind the ticket. Then strange and almost unbelievable things began to happen.

Behind the scenes persons of alien thought and without one element of gratitude toward the South or patriotism toward the nation, began to think in terms of spoils and perpetuity in office. They conceived the thought that is by trading with the crooked politicians of Pennsylvania, Illinois, New York and other states that have great political power, they could fasten their grip upon the nation regardless of the South, which they felt "would always stick to the party," and so they began to trade the South down the river in order to gain Negro votes in doubtful states.

Acting through the corrupt political machine in Pennsylvania, they sold out the South to Pennsylvania Negroes, led by the editor of the notorious Negro newspaper at Pittsburgh, and by promises of a so-called anti-lynch bill bought the state from under the noses of the Republicans who had owned it for years. (And nothing the Republicans in their long career of crookedness under such leaders as Matt Quay ever did was more rotten than this.)

Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, New York and other states were bought in similar fashion through the sacrifice of the South to the ambitions of Negro political leaders, and now the long series of cheap and sordid purchases at the political counter are to be confirmed by the passage of the anti-poll tax bill, probably to be followed by the passage of the anti-lynch bill.

Thus the South has been betrayed in the house of those who should have been its friends, and it has been done in as cheap, sordid and rotten fashion as the lowest among political minds could suggest. The fine element of gratitude has been smothered in an atmosphere of selfish greed and for its loyalty throughout the years the South is to be paid in terms the ignomy of which Judas came to understand only when he threw away the silver for which he had betrayed his friend and ended his life in shame.

Proposal to Restrict Barkley's Power Urged

Ellender Asks Party Caucus

Washington, Nov. 23 (U.P.)—Senator Ellender (D., La.) said today that when the new Congress convenes in January he will demand that Democratic Party lines in the Senate be tightened by the holding of caucuses on all important legislation.

His proposal came as an aftermath of intraparty bitterness generated by the ten-day battle over anti-poll tax legislation which is expected to end today on a vote on cloture—limitation of debate.

"I've been in the Senate six years and I can't recall one instance where the Democrats were called together to decide what course to pursue on any legislation," Ellender said. "On the contrary, it was shoved under our noses and we were asked to take it or leave it."

Would Harm Barkley.

Although no organized drive has developed to oust Senator Barkley (D., Ky.) from his position as Democratic leader, adoption of Ellender's plan would seriously undermine his power. It would mean that any legislation sponsored by the Administration would have to receive the prior approval of a Democratic Party Caucus.

Under the present system, legislation requested or desired by President Roosevelt is pushed through the Senate by Barkley, who seeks to muster the necessary votes for it. With Democratic representation in the Senate in the new Congress cut from sixty-five to fifty-seven, Senators from the solid South would be in a strong position to block any legislation if it had to be submitted to a party caucus before coming to the floor.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Judge Myles A. Paige Appointed By Retiring Governor Lehman As Major Of 3rd Separate Battalion

DEC 12 1942

By CHARLES T. MAGILL

Making it one of his last official acts before retiring from the governorship of New York State, Gov. Lehman last Monday announced the appointment of Special Sessions Justice Myles A. Paige to head the newly created unit of the New York State Guard in Brooklyn, known as the Third Separate Battalion. He has the rank of major.

DEC 12 1942

This brings to a successful end the work of a small group of unselfish Brooklyn men who started out to obtain a full regiment for Brooklyn and Queens made up entirely of Negroes as a part of New York's State Guard. The group was fought by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. In the face of a signed petition of 15,000 men and women asking for the military outfit for these boroughs, the NAACP has left a bad taste among Brooklynites which will probably be reflected in the activities of Brooklyn people with the organization for some time.

Recruiting has already started at the armory at 801 Dean street, near Washington avenue, and representatives of the Guard will be on hand there each evening this week to sign up those who wish to join. Men from 17 to 55 years of age are eligible.

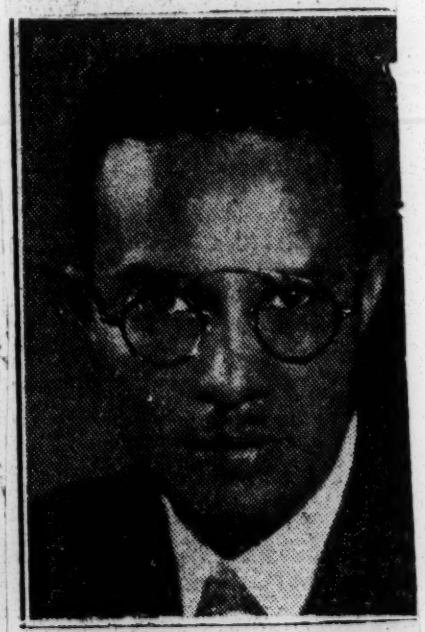
When the history of Brooklyn is written and the birth of the Third Separate Battalion is told, the work done by Clarence Wilson, Assistant District Attorney for Kings County, will be seen to have done much to bring about the happy culmination. Backing Attorney Wilson was Joseph Posey, a power in the affairs of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the chairman of the Citizens Co-ordinating Committee, the group which carried on to the last.

DEC 12 1942

It was the political pressure that Mr. Wilson exerted and the pressure that Mr. Posey was able to exert through veteran organizations which did the trick, plus the work of other earnest members of the committee, such as Hubert H. Brown, exalted ruler of Brooklyn Lodge No. 32, Elks; Walter Fearance, also a prominent figure in veteran affairs; Dr. J. R. C. Cook, Dr. W. P. Norcom, W. L. Wilson, Jr., F. Leroy Schneck, the writer of this article and other.

The quiet, gentle manner in which Attorney Wilson performed his work, the unassuming attitude of the chairman, Mr. Posey, the unflinching loyalty of those other men whose names have just been mentioned, made this group of men one of the most remarkable for sheer unselfishness that the writer has ever seen in his wide career. Had Mr. Wilson any previous military experience, he would most certainly have been given command of the battalion. It is hoped that a commission will be tendered him as next in command.

Major In State Guard



Judge MYLES A. PAIGE

Judge Paige, whose democratic ways have already earned for him the love and esteem of all, regardless of their position in life, should make a successful leader. He has had previous military experience in the 369th National Guard Regiment where he held a commission. Appointment of his staff of officers will proceed as Major Paige decides on the merits of those who apply.

DEC 12 1942

Gov. Lehman's appointment of Judge Paige closes the issue of whether a Brooklyn man should head the outfit or a Harlem man.

52d-1942
Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

Democratic

STATEMENT

—of the—

OKLAHOMA COLORED DEMOCRATIC ASSOCIATION

—to the— FEB 28 1942

Platform Committee

—of the—

Democratic State Convention

OKLAHOMA CITY

1942 MAR 28 1942

TO THE PLATFORM COMMITTEE OF THE DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION—

GENTLEMEN: FEB 28 1942

The Oklahoma Colored Democratic Association, assembled in annual session, February 21, 1942, Oklahoma City, has prepared this statement having to do with the viewpoint and attitude of the largest minority group in this state in this hour when the nation is at war, and when in our judgment more than ever before attention should be given to our social and political behavior.

As loyal American citizens desirous of joining with all units of the citizenry in the protection of our homes and firesides, we believe democracy should blossom in America today as never before. We believe the time has come when the influence of all citizens should be felt in government.

FEB 28 1942

As the nation becomes engulfed in war Negro manhood is being called to the colors, and according to President Roosevelt will be called to battle fronts in every corner of the earth. In this endeavor the fathers and mothers of these black youths have a definite and certain interest. They are anxious to assist in every way to make it possible that proper consideration is given Negro youth during the draft and general induction period.

With this in mind we are asking the Democratic State Convention to go on record requesting state and federal agencies to grant equitable representation to Negroes on draft boards, civilian defense councils and every civilian and semi-civilian unit of administration handling the military induction of Negro youth into the army of the United States. We feel that there could be no finer and positive expression of democracy than through the adoption of such a policy.

Our Association also would like to call the attention of the Democratic State Convention to the fact that at present there is no attempt by the state government to give Negro youth training of the type and character that would make them efficient in the skills needed by war industry. We believe that the state convention should go on record as favoring the establishment of a state college, separate from Langston university, having for its purpose the training of Negro youth as skilled workmen in the general field of metallurgy and mechanical crafts.

In connection with Langston university we urge that the Democratic State Convention insist upon legislative appropriations sufficient to place this institution on an accredited basis. Democracy does not express self will in a state where the largest minority group is denied the right to the same type and character of education given other citizens.

MAR 28 1942

We further urge that the State Democratic Convention while in session urge the passage of legislation separating the three state institutions located at Taft, viz: State Hospital for Negro Insane, Deaf, Blind and Dumb Institute, State Training School for Girls. These three institutions, all foreign in the character of rehabilitation, are now operated under one supervision, to the detriment of the 200,000 Negroes of Oklahoma.

We also insist that legislation be passed providing a medical superintendent be named the administrative head of the state Hospital for Negro Insane. FEB 28 1942

While the nation is attempting to develop healthful conditions among the many selectees drafted for war, scores of Negroes suffering from tuberculosis are permitted to walk the streets, without medical attention, because the state does not provide adequate beds and medical attention at the state tuberculosis hospital at Clinton. We insist that that this condition be abated. This action could in actuality be declared a national defense measure.

We believe that one of the most unfair and undemocratic acts of a recent legislature was the enactment of a law requiring citizens of African decent to place the word (Negro) beside their names, when appearing on election ballots. We believe in the interest of morale and patriotism the democratic state convention should go on record as requesting the on-coming legislature to repeal that section of the election laws. MAR 28 1942

In our national defense program highways will hold first place. We must improve our transportation facilities in order to conduct an effective war. We believe the state of Oklahoma and this convention should go on record as willing to give Negro citizens their fair and equitable share of highway employment. The millions to be poured into highway development will come from the pockets of black citizens as well as white citizens. Both should share alike in the benefits.

We believe that the overwhelming vote given the Democratic party in this state by thousands of loyal Negro Democrats warrants the Democratic party, in convention assembled, in endorsing the following patronage for Negro citizens of Oklahoma:

1. That a division of Public Health be set up for Negroes, and that Negro doctors and nurses be put in full control of same.
2. Appointment of sales tax collectors.
3. Appointment as Assistant Superintendent of Public Instruction.
4. Appointment as Assistant State Attorney General.
5. Appointment as Assistant State Examiner.
6. That Negroes be appointed as Investigators out of the Governor's office. FEB
7. Representatives in the Highway Patrol Department.
8. Employment in the construction and maintenance of state public highways. FEB 28 1942
9. Employment as guards in the State Penitentiary.
10. That Negro Women be used as matrons in the state penitentiary.
11. That a General Hospital be established and maintained for Negroes under the supervision of Negro doctors and nurses.
12. Janitorial department of the capitol building be fully in charge of Negroes.
13. "T. B." hospital be established for Negroes and in charge of Negroes. MAR 28 1942
14. We insist in addition to a Negro woman heading the girl's resident centers, that a well trained, competent, Negro man be named to supervise the Negro N. Y. A. workshop of the state.
15. That Negroes be appointed gasoline inspectors.
16. That Negroes be a pointed on defense boards and draft boards.
17. That Negroes be given full participation in all defense work within the state.
18. That Negroes be given at least one delegate to the National Democratic convention in which the candidates for the presidency are nominated.
19. That Negroes be given the janitorial work in all court houses and municipal buildings where there is a large Negro population.
20. That Negro ministers be used in the state penitentiary as chaplains.
21. That Negroes be given representation on the welfare board.
22. That Langston University be given a sufficient appropriation in the next legislature to bring the college up to the requirement of the North Central Association.
23. That Negroes be appointed as tag agents in such counties as Tulsa and Oklahoma. FEB
24. We request that Negro teachers be paid equal salaries as paid white teachers when they have equal qualifications for doing the same type of work.
25. That the Association will not give endorsement for a state or federal job to any of its members of the official family as long as they are holding office.

B. C. FRANKLIN, Chairman.

52d-1942
Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

STATEMENT

—of the—

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—to the—

FEB 28 1942

Platform Committee

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OKLAHOMA CITY

1942

MAR 28 1942

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With this in mind we are asking the Democratic State Convention to go on record requesting state and federal agencies to grant equitable representation to Negroes on draft boards, civilian defense councils and every civilian and semi-civilian unit of administration handling the military induction of Negro youth into the army of the United States. We feel that there could be no finer and positive expression of democracy than through the adoption of such a policy.

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FEB

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FEB 28 1942

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B. C. FRANKLIN, Chairman.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

SEP 5 1942

HOUSTON GETS POLITICAL JOB

WASHINGTON, D.C., Sept. 3—Appointment of William L. Houston, an attorney, as director of the Colored Division of the Democratic National Committee was announced last Tuesday by the Committee.

In explaining the establishment and work of the division, Mr. Houston said:

"This is the first time that the Democratic National Committee has set up a division to work with colored voters in other than Presidential campaigns. It will function the year round.

Temporarily it will be housed in the building at 615 F street northwest.

NEGROES STILL BARRED

Democratic Convention, meeting in Austin last week, retained the provision that only whites could participate in its primary, thus barring Negroes from an effective vote in Texas. The Democrats of Texas again emphasized the fact that its leadership lacks the element of statesmanship necessary to meet a crisis. With the United Nations fighting for freedom, they could have done much to help the nation and the cause of the United Nations abroad by permitting Negroes, who are giving their lives and all for the protection and expansion of liberty in America.

The action of the convention was an answer also to those Negroes who say that we will get the right to vote in the Democratic primary by voluntary action of the Democrats. (Incidentally, Southern Democrats led the fight against dropping the poll tax for soldiers too). If the Democrats will not remove the bars today, when the whole searchlight of intelligence and enlightened opinion is focused upon discriminations, how can it be expected that they will ever voluntarily do it? Negroes are left to seek removal of the bars from the Democratic primary through the courts as their last resort. The attitude of the State Democratic Convention should spur every Negro in Texas to support the fight, which is now on its way to the Supreme Court, as their only means of redress and as their most potent means of protesting against bigotry.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

SEP 19 1942

"SUPPORT FDR AND WAR," SAYS DEMOCRATIC AIDE

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 17—"The major political issue in the Congressional campaign will be support of the war program," William L. Houston, director of the Colored division of the Democratic National Committee, asserted in an interview.

Mr. Houston believes that the best interests of the nation, as well as of colored people, will be served by support of the President's leadership in both international and domestic affairs.

SEP 19 1942

"Enactment of necessary war legislation is imperative," he said. In this category he placed the granting of authority to the President to regulate agricultural prices and to fixe wage ceilings to stop the mounting cost of living.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

NEGRO BOYS HONOR MRS. ROOSEVELT

SEP 22 1942

First Lady Receives Award of Philadelphia Youth Center for Racial Work

SEP 22 1942

VISITS A HOUSING PROJECT

She Chats With a Family and Examines Child's Knitting in a Half-Hour Tour

SEP 22 1942

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 21—The training given to American youth in the welfare centers operated here and in other cities will make for a better and more internationally minded world when peace comes again, Mrs. Roosevelt declared tonight.

Arriving in Philadelphia unattended, the First Lady made a swift tour of the city's youth center, Negro recrational project, and spoke briefly there after receiving the second annual Youth Center Award for "her splendid work in the development of interracial good will."

Mrs. Roosevelt also spent half an hour touring the Richard Allen Homes, low-cost housing project for Negroes in the north central section of the city, and visited one of the families living there.

Her hosts were Sylvester and Mary Stevenson, who welcomed her with their two children, Louise, aged 8, and Sylvester Jr., aged 6.

Upon learning that Mr. Stevenson earned $22 a week in a central city restaurant, Mrs. Roosevelt asked:

SEP 22 1942

"But haven't you had a raise lately?"

"That amount includes the raise," she was told.

"It's not all that it might be, but it represents a step forward," Mrs. Roosevelt said.

In leaving she noted that Louise was knitting a garment which the girl said was a sweater for her little brother. Examining the child's work closely, Mrs. Roosevelt expressed surprise that a child so young could knit so well.

"That's fine work," she told Louise in parting. "I'm sure your brother will be very proud of it."

Center's Work Commended

She was introduced at the brief convocation in the youth center by John B. Kelly, former Democratic City Chairman.

Opelousas, La., Democrat
December 17, 1942

Southern Democrats Becoming "Fed Up" With The New Deal

For several years this publication has consistently opposed radical "reforms" of the so-called New Deal, which were designed to substitute a half-baked form of state socialism for democracy. A large and growing proportion of Southern Democrats are in open revolt with the New Deal, because of the latter's evident determination to force racial equality upon the South.

The South simply refuses to accept social equality as the New Deal's payment for its seduction of the negro vote from the Republicans. The South refuses to haul down its venerable Democratic motto of "White Supremacy" as a New Deal bribe for Northern negro votes.

Governor Ellis Arnall, in a recent speech in New York, gave warning that Southern Democrats would not permit racial equality between white and negro residents to be made compulsory through New Deal legislation. His address is published on this page.

This publication has long been fed up with the New Deal's political brotherhood with the Kelly, the Hague and other rotten political machines, while it piously cried out for honesty and high ideals in government.

We believe that the New Deal has attempted to influence mass votes thru use of funds of the federal treasury. We vigorously oppose this method of securing votes upon the part of any party or any clique.

The New Deal has attempted to crush the very keystone of the Democratic Party—states' rights.

New Deal bureaucrats attempt to rule by decree and show not the slightest intention of giving all parties and economic groups equal justice.

Finally the New Deal is sabotaging the war effort by bringing up controversial issues, and is attempting to force so-called reforms under plea of furthering the war effort, when in fact, such meddling has just the opposite effect.

There is bound to be a break between Southern Democrats and Northern New Dealers. They have very little in common beyond the fact that they are both for the time being under the Democratic banner. Never were there stranger political bedfellows. The so-called New Deal stands for experimental state socialism. It has ignored and repudiated the old historic principles of the Democratic party one by one. Southerners look in anguish upon the wreckage of the Democratic Party left by the wild-eyed New Deal reforming. They simply will not swallow much more of the New Deals unsavory nostrums. A show-down is in the making.

Star of Zion
Charlotte. N. C.

Mrs. Roosevelt In North Carolina

SEP 3 1942

Now that we are back to earth after the great Convention at Livingstone College, Salisbury, in which Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt played such a conspicuous part, we think it can be told now that some white people in Salisbury and North Carolina were not even warm over the First Lady's visit to a Negro convention. The Salisbury Post revealed that a false rumor was spread that Mrs. Roosevelt had planned entertainment of a group of whites and Negroes at the Yadkin Hotel which was entirely without foundation.

Even after Mrs. Roosevelt had accepted the invitation and it was definitely known that she would come to Living- College, one of the leading dailies of the state declined to publish the news of the convention or of her coming.

As to the addresses which Mrs. Roosevelt delivered, they were not essentially different from the utterances of Governor Broughton, who spoke from the same platform two days before. But there was considerable disagreement, we have since learned, with some of the things Mrs. Roosevelt had to say at Livingstone College, particularly with reference to her plea for freedom of opportunity for all citizens. What any good American could object to, of course, is more than we have been able to discover. The thing she said, which encouched all that she had said before, was: "we must be very certain that when our boys come home they shall find the kind of world for which they have been fighting."

We believe Mrs. Roosevelt meant black boys as well as white, and we know that it would be a terrible disillusionment for Negro boys to fight all over the world for the freedoms for other people, and then come home to find that these freedoms did not exist even in their own beloved America—that simply cannot happen; it must not happen. Just as we must win the war, so freedom and equality of opportunity must be won for all American citizens regardless of race or color, otherwise the war would not be won, however decisive the victory on the battlefields.

We think that is what Mrs. Roosevelt meant, for she could not have meant anything less, logically. And incidentally we think Mrs. Roosevelt went out of her way to show proper appreciation for all the people of Salisbury and community, for in her column, "My Day," published in The New York World-Telegram the following day, she wrote as follows: (It will be noted what scant reference she made to Livingstone College and the General Convention, which brought her to Salisbury and North Carolina.)

Washington, Frilay.—Yesterday in Salisbury, N. C., was a really busy day. In the morning the YMCA arranged for some kind ladies to take me to see the town and one of the big cotton mills. The town of Salisbury has some beautiful old houses and the trees are very fine, which adds great attraction to many of the streets.

The cotton mill is one of the biggest in that neighborhood known as the Cannon Mills. They employ some 16,000 people and have evidently been very enlightened in their dealings with their employees. I was told they had established a building and loan fund and encouraged the ownership of house and land by their employees. If work is slack the building and loan fund does not collect any payments during the lay-off period.

* * *

They have a most beautiful building in which the YMCA and YWCA are housed, and they told me that this Y has the biggest membership of any in the United States. It certainly was being used by young people when we went through there. It is decorated in good taste, which they credit to the two Mrs. Cannons.

Mr. Cannon told me that most of the work is done on a piece-work basis, and outside of a few people in the day-laborer class the average earning power of a woman is $22 a week. In view of all this, which seems to meet high union standards, I was surprised to find that the mill was not unionized, but Mr. Cannon said they had always had remarkably good labor relations ever since his father had started the mill in '88.

* * *

I lunched with a group of ladies representing all the various women's organizations, such as the Daughters of the Confederacy, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the women's clubs, the Parent-Teacher Assn., etc.

I spent some time on the campus of Livingstone College, meeting first in a general session some 400 young Negro people.

I returned to my hotel long enough to have supper. During this half hour four of the National Youth Administration executives came to tell me of the successful training of both boys and girls for war industry on the North Carolina projects.

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

No Race Riots, No Eleanor Club, Says First Lady

SEP 5 1942

Rumors that so-called "Eleanor Clubs" are flourishing among domestic workers were said by Mrs. Roosevelt to have no foundation at her press conference Tuesday.

Mrs. Roosevelt also quashed reports that as a result of a recent address by her in Salisbury, N. C., racial relations had been so strained that a race riot was brewing in the South.

The Office of War Information issued a statement this week praising four newspapers, including a Negro weekly, for refuting reports that Southern whites planned to riot during Mrs. Roosevelt's speech. The First Lady commended the OWI, and its director, Elmer Davis, for the issuance of the statement and said it was "correct."

In regrad to the "Eleanor Clubs," Mrs. Roosevelt said that an investigation proved that the rumors had no basis, and that she had been unable to obtain a list, record, or name of anyone enrolled in the mythical clubs, which bear her name with her permission.

The clubs were said to have a slogan, "Not a Maid in the Kitchen by Christmas," which reputedly caused some housewives to fear.

"I suppose the rumor arose in places where domestic help is leaving the kitchen to go into defense industry," Mrs. Roosevelt said.

"In the South the pay of domestic help has been very low. If there is any opportunity to work in industry, maids will try it anyway, although they may not like the work.

No Reason for Issue

"Naturally housewives notice because it materially affects their daily lives."

Mrs. Roosevelt pointed out the Eleanor clubs as an example of "rumors used to bring about situations that don't exist." Even if Negro women are beginning to receive work in the defense industry in the South and "signs point" to a greater employment of them, Mrs. Roosevelt told her press conference that she saw no reason why an issue should be made of facts commonly known.

When asked if she resented her name used in such connection, she said: "I wouldn't want my name used by any club, or organinzation. I have discouraged the use of my name in the Eleanor Roosevelt Democratic Clubs."

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Mrs. Roosevelt Receives Plaque From Race Youth

SEP 23 1942

Wise Council, Guidance, Good Will Are Cited

SEP 23 1942

PHILADELPHIA—(SNS)— Mrs Franklin D. Roosevelt Tuesday had received a plaque from officials of Youth City, a project for colored boys between 12 and 20, in recognition of "her wise counsel and guidance of youth and for her splendid work in the development of interracial goodwill."

She also was given a 2 1-2-inch amber cigarette holder for the President. On it is engraved the President's name and the words "Made in Shangri-La."

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

2nd Annual Award to Mrs. Roosevelt

OCT 3 - 1942

OCT 3 - 1942

PHILADELPHIA.

"Peace in the world can be assured only when each member of the home, the community, and the nation makes an effort to understand his neighbor's problem," declared Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt when she received the second annual Youth City award, Monday, from Samuel Evans, founder of the recreation center.

OCT 3 - 1942

Crowds lining the street in front of the center at 1717 N. Twelfth Street, cheered the First Lady when she stepped out of a taxi and was welcomed by Mr. Evans who took her on a brief tour of the community served by the center. Mrs. Roosevelt was accompanied by Mrs. Lucy DuValle who assisted Mr. Evans in pointing out areas of particular interest.

The party visited the Richard Allen Homes, low-rent housing project at Tenth and Parrish Streets, and spent twenty minutes of their thirty-minute tour with Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester Stevenson and their two children, Louise, 8, and Sylvester, Jr., 6, in their four - and - a - half - room home.

OCT 3 - 1942

When Mrs. Roosevelt asked Mr. Stevenson what his wages were, he told her that he received $22 a week as a general utility man in a mid-city restaurant. The visitor expressed surprise and asked, "But haven't you had a raise lately?"

When she was told that the $22 included a recent raise, Mrs. Roosevelt remarked, "Well, it's not all that it might be, but it does show that you are making progress.

OCT 3 - 1942

Praises Child's Work

During the entire visit, Louise had been sitting quietly knitting. She told the President's wife that she was making a sweater for her little brother. Mrs. Roosevelt praised the child's work and as she left said she was sure Sylvester would be very proud to wear such a fine sweater.

The party threaded its way back to the cars through the crowd gathered in front of the Stevenson home and returned to Youth City, where Mrs. Roosevelt was welcomed by the martial music of the Crispus Attucks American Legion.

Plaque Awarded

The First Lady then entered the building where she was the guest of honor at a banquet and received from Mr. Evans a plaque "for her wise counsel and guidance of youth and her valuable work in the development of interracial good will.

OCT 3 - 1942

Before the banquet, an orchid corsage was presented to Mrs. Roosevelt by little Dolores Holloway of 1640 N. Fawn Street.

John B. Kelly, former Democratic city chairman and head of Hale America, read congratulatory telegrams from Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, winner of the Youth City award last year; Vice President Henry A. Wallace, and the Rev. E. J. Flannigan, head of Boys' Town.

Bishop David Sims of the AME church delivered the invocation and Tanner Duckrey, principal of Paul Laurence Dunbar School, gave a brief resume of Youth City's history.

OCT 3 - 1942

Gift for President

In accepting the award, Mrs. Roosevelt said that she was proud to follow Mrs. Bethune as the second winner of the honor because she admired Mrs. Bethune's work and Mrs. Bethune herself.

She also accepted a gift for the President, a cigarette holder from the boys of Youth City. She assured the audience that the President would appreciate the gift and that he knew of the work at Youth City and personally wished its organizers continued success.

Center's Work Lauded

Mrs. Roosevelt commended the work at Youth City because "it teaches young people to shoulder responsibility, and to make something of themselves and the communities in which they live."

She said that the boys who had learned the valuable lesson of discipline in a center such as Youth City would go out into the world better able to judge the failures and successes of government.

Must Make Sacrifices

Mrs. Roosevelt said that we must all be soldiers, and subjected to severe discipline during this conflict, so that when it is over we may have the opportunity still to exercise the rights that we now surrender temporarily. The war cannot be won, she said, unless it is fought by every individual in every home in the nation.

OCT 3 - 1942

The boys who come home will help us to insure peace, the First Lady added, but we here at home must preserve their rights for them by denying ourselves the luxuries of action and speech that will interfere with the successful prosecution of the war. "We must build for peace even as we build for war," she said.

"I am grateful to all those who have helped Mr. Evans to make his dream come true," she said in conclusion, "and I hope that the story will be told so that the youth of other cities and in other lands will be inspired to build Youth Cities of their own."

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

Mrs. Roosevelt Urges Equality in N.C. Talk

AUG 2 2 1942

SALISBURY, N.C.—Calling for equal educational opportunity for all and for a man's right to hold the job for which he is qualified, Mrs. Roosevelt keynoted a panel discussion of youth held at Livingstone Colleg here last week, during the AMEZ Convention on Christian Education.

Making the opening statement on the panel theme, "The Responsibility of Youth in the World Situation," Mrs. Roosevelt told youth from all sections of the nation that "we must have patience and must try with all our might to bring about recognition of the fact that man must have equal opportunity to get any job is he capable of filling.

Economic Slavery Color Blind

AUG 2 2 1942

The First Lady declared that minority groups in the United States have taken work bringing small incomes and, therefore, set the whole economic level very low for no other reason but that they belonged to a minority group. This, she said, applies to other than colored persons.

"We must reverence law and let it serve its purpose," the wife of the President declared, "and not do things as individuals that are outside the law. Thus," she insisted, "we must demand under the law equality for every citizen.

AUG 2 2 1942

Must Give All a Chance

"All young people under a democracy should get the kind of education they desire. We try to fit all education into old-time patterns. As a matter of fact, backgrounds and other influences indicate that some young people should better be taught to do things with their hands.

"But the opportunity should come to all to learn to do things with their heads, to acquire all the academic education they can properly acquire. In democracy, the amount of education a person gets should not be determined by what he or she is able to pay

My Day

AUG 15 1942

WASHINGTON, Friday.—Yesterday in Salisbury, N. C., was a really busy day. In the morning the YMCA arranged for some kind ladies to take me to see the town and one of the big cotton mills. The town of Salisbury has some beautiful old houses and the trees are very fine, which adds great attraction to many of the streets.



The cotton mill is one of the biggest in that neighborhood known as the Cannon Mills. They employ some 16,000 people and have evidently been very enlightened in their dealings with their employees. I was told they had established a building and loan fund and encouraged the ownership of house and land by their employees. If work is slack the building and loan fund does not collect any payments during the lay-off period.

* * *

AUG 15 1942

They have a most beautiful building in which the YMCA and YWCA are housed, and they told me that this Y has the biggest membership of any in the United States. It certainly was being used by young people when we went through there. It is decorated in good taste, which they credit to the two Mrs. Cannons.

AUG 15 1942

Mr. Cannon told me that most of the work is done on a piece-work basis, and outside of a few people in the day-laborer class the average earning power of a woman is $22 a week. In view of all this, which seems to meet high union standards, I was surprised to find that the mill was not unionized, but Mr. Cannon said they had always had remarkably good labor relations ever since his father had started the mill in '88.

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AUG 15 1942

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52d-1942

(MRS. ROOSEVELT(DEMOCRATIC)

Greenwood, S. C. Index-Journal
February 12, 1942

Mrs. Roosevelt Continues Demands For Racial Social Equality

Following is a recent letter from George E. Morris, Washington correspondent of the Memphis Commercial-Appeal, to the newspaper:

Washington, Jan. 22—Mrs. Roosevelt's strident demands for social equality between white nad colored has created confusion in the minds of some. It is not entirely clear whether she holds that racial equaliyt is essential to winning the war, or that the war is to be used as a vehicle for establishing racial equality.

In any event a considerable number of persons have a feeling that Mrs. Roosevelt is not contributing to the recognized need for national unity but impeding its achievement by attempting two objectives at the same time.

The President is doing enough to satisfy the most ambitious program of social equality, sponsored by organizations of mixed groups of white and negro. The Civil Service Commission has been forbidden to use photographs of persons certified for positions in the Government, in roder that those selecting additional personnel may not be prejudiced by race or physical appearance.

Furthermore, the President, months ago gave notice that there was to be no discrimination on the part of department heads in filling the more important jobs. The effect was that many heads of departments became so jittery that they were afraid to employ native born, white Americans and incur the danger of being charged with discrimination. The result is that departments have had a heavy infiltration of negroes and persons without race prejudice.

Whatever complaint the President had originally against racial discrimination in the Government has long since been overcome. The most critical cannot fail to be impressed from casual observation of the workings of the departments that the Administration has achieved democracy in a very real sense. White officials have negro stenographers and negro officials have white stenographers, and the blending of the races is without appearance of friction.

It would not be accurate to say that there is entire absence of race consciousness. White men and women subordinates from sections of the country where segregation of the races is still practiced are said to have had difficulty in accommodating themselves to the new social order They will get used to it in time.

Already both races are manifesting a spirit of comaraderie and the white employes who are socially acceptable to their negro co-workers have good prospects for better jobs and increased pay.

Rapid as the progress has been in the social revolution, Mrs. Roosevelt is dissatisfied. She sets an example by having groups of negro women to the White House for tea, surrounds herself with negroes and whites in the Office of Civilian Defense, which she directs, and takes a group of negro women to lunch at one of the better hotels, but the country generally has been slow to follow her example.

An instance of racial segregation in Red Cross work was brought to her attention, and she rebuked the practice by saying, in effect that she would not be surprised if the negroes should find the country not worth fighting for so long as they are treated as they are.

There is nothing that aroused Mrs. Roosevelt's indignation to such a pitch as social distinctions between white and negroes. But in this case it is the opinion of some that she came dangerously near the border line of interfering with the war effort.

Some negroes are as ambitious for social equality as Mrs. Roosevelt. Should they openly declare that participation in the war effort is contingent upon social equality being granted in advance, they would be on dangerous ground. Should a private individual undertake to convince the negroes that they have nothing to fight for until all social barriers are removed, he would be thrown in jail as a Nazi agent. That is where he should be, and, whether a Nazi agent or not, he would be serving the purpose of the enemy in creating dissension and discord.

During the last World War a great deal of trouble was experienced with the negroes. Negroes were told that our allies, the Belgians, were guilty of all manner of atrocities in the Belgian Congo. There was widespread feeling among them that in fighting with the Allies they were aiding in perpetuating the practice. Discontent at one time was serious. It was the result of enemy propaganda.

Now they are told that, despite establishment of equality in the Government and the ban against racial discrimination at the White House, there is much more negroes might desire in the way of social recognition, as a condition to giving all out aid to the war effort.

The saving feature of the situation is the innate common sense of the average negro. He knows there is a trick in often repeated bait of "social equality." In the first place, he does not believe in it. He looks up to some members of his own races as social superiors, and looks down upon others as his sociarl inferiors Likewise, there is no basis of social equality for him with white folks. Of one thing he is certain. He is superior to the whites who associate with him or advocate social equality. White and colored agree on that perfectly.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

BUT HE'S FROM MISSISSIPPI SO THAT'S THAT

FEB 28 1942

Jackson Scribe Denounces First Lady For Being Friendly To Negroes

JACKSON, Miss.—In an insulting editorial, "Time to Halt," in the February 9 edition of his paper, the Jackson Daily News, Frederick Sullens, a violent anti-Negro editor, bitterly denounced Negroes and Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt for her frequent association with them.

Declaring that she is not increasing her popularity in the Democratic party "when she takes groups of Negro women to lunch with her and permits herself to be frequently pictured in the press in company with Negresses," the editor said that "Mrs. Roosevelt, either in her capacity as wife of the President or as assistant director, civilian defense, cannot break down long-established racial barriers and social distinctions without stirring deepest resentment among millions of people North and South. . . ."

Continuing, the editor wrote: "It is difficult to see why the First Lady of the land cannot see the race problem that is right under her nose in Washington, and realize that there is direct connection between her flagrant disregard of racial distinctions and the appalling increase of criminal assaults on white women committed by Negroes within the very shadow of the capitol—an increase so alarming that it has been necessary to greatly increase the Washington police force and detail a large group of officers to hunt down this class of criminals."

Contending that "Mrs. Roosevelt's regard of the delicate issue has been hardly short of scandalous," Sullens asserted that "there cannot be social equality between whites and Negroes," and that "such a thing is abhorrent to the white race, and also sensible Negroes know it is utterly impossible."

Concluding, the editor warned: "Mrs. Roosevelt must be brought to realize that after the establishment of social equality the next logical step is miscegenation. How would she like to see some girl of her own flesh and blood—one of those grandchildren—married to a Negro?"

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Race Equality Must Come Says Mrs. Roosevelt

APR 17 1942

Must Recognize All Creeds As Deserving

APR 14 1942

HAMPTON, Va. — (ANP)—If America is to win the war and the peace that comes afterward, it must recognize now that all races are equal and all creeds deserving. Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt declared in an address to the Hampton student body while here attending the annual meeting of the trustees of the Julius Rosenwald fund.

Discussing, "Our Negro American After the War," the First Lady went on, "We have been dedicated to the proposition heretofore that the white race was something apart, something peculiarly individual to the human race, but now we have been showr that we are not. R 17 1942

"What happens to you after the war will be determined a great deal by what happens to you during the war. Not only will this apply to Negroes but to all of us."

She described the conflict as clash of two philosophies—totalitarianism versus democracy.

"Some say that it doesn't matter whose philosophy wins," she said, "but it does. The totalitarian philosophy subordinates the individual to the state. And if this be true, which it is, democracy would vanish from the earth."

Pensacola Fla Journal
February 3, 1942

Mrs. Roosevelt Pays Visit To Negro School

Students Told Of Part They Play In War Emergency

"Negro youths in our armed forces are proud of the part they are playing in an effort to preserve the democracy of this nation," Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt declared in an address before a packed auditorium of Negro students, teachers and citizens at Washington High school yesterday.

The first lady's address at the Negro school was delivered at 12 o'clock noon and followed on the heels of one delivered at 11 a.m. to air raid wardens and civil defense workers of the city.

Earlier yesterday she visited and addressed personnel at Fort Barrancas and a garrison of soldiers on Santa Rosa Island, where she was escorted by Lt. Earl R. Miller, USN, with whom she is visiting, and officers of the Army post.

In all her talks to civilian groups of the city, the president's wife stressed the need for strong civil defense work and co-operation of civilians with leaders of that work.

"When we go to bed at night," she said, "we do not know but what we might wake up the next morning to face attackers."

To this she added: "Since December 7, 1941, we have been in this war and now—at this moment—we are in it all the way. You have your air raid wardens and other leaders here, whose job it is to furnish you with instructions, It is your job to co-operate and organize with them."

Mrs. Roosevelt repeated portions of her NBC radio talk which originated from the studios of WCOA at 5:45 p.m. Sunday afternoon.

"To be strong in civilian defense," she said, " we must realize and become aware of the fact that we must have strong bodies—good physical fitness, which is necessary."

Co-chairman of civilian defense for the United States, Mrs. Roosevelt cautioned her Negro listeners that large quantities of food supplies are now being shipped to Great Britain and warned that on the home front this can be balanced by planting more gardens.

"By doing this we can keep the food supply up and plentiful quantities going to our friends abroad," she pointed out.

And as she so spoke to millions of American girls over the air Sunday afternoon, the first lady repeated her message to the crowded hall of Negro girls: "Negro girls of this school should become more familiar with buying household articles and learn how to handle foods in such a way as to save."

Then she turned to the teachers of the huge Negro school and said: "I urge among you teachers to prepare your students for the best in civilian defense. Help them make your communities meet the needs of the people who live in it."

Mrs. Roosevelt was greeted at the school by the huge 55-piece Washington High school band playing "God Bless America."

She was introduced by M. J.Acklin leader among Pensacola Negro citizens, who herself was introduced by Marietta Shelby, mistress of ceremonies.

Greenwood, S. C. Index-Journal
July 21, 1942

MRS. ROOSEVELT'S OBSESSION

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of President Roosevelt, made a speech before the New Jersey State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs in Borderstown last Wednesday.

Mrs. Roosevelt expressed several of her views, one being the "hope that the day was not far distant when all racial groups could work in harmony with no thought of race, color or creed."

She also expressed opposition to poll taxes imposed in some States.

Opposition to poll tax voting requirement in some States seems to be a sort of obsession with Mrs. Roosevelt, like her sponsorship of the Southern Tenant Farmers union.

South Carolina does NOT have a poll tax requirement for voting so far as women are concerned and this applies to females of all races.

It is interesting to note that there is a "Colored Federation of Women's Clubs" in the State of New Jersey.

Albany-Decatur, Ala. Daily
August 14, 1942

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT ADDRESSES NEGROES

SALISBURY, N. C., Aug. 14—(AP)—Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt told a Negro youth discussion group here that "we must try with all our might to bring about recognition of the fact that man must have equal opportunities to get any job he is capable of filling."

"Minority groups in the United States have taken work bringing small incomes, and therefore set the whole economic level very low, for no other reason but that they belonged to the minority group. This applies to groups other than Negroes," she said.

Mrs. Roosevelt spoke at the convention on Christian education of the Afro-Methodist Episcopal Zion church.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Mrs. Roosevelt Won't Attend Youth Meeting

FEB 4 1941

The American Youth Congress announced last night that a committee would call on Vice President Wallace today for aid in obtaining eating and housing accommodations for Negroes attending this weekend's "Town Meeting of Youth."

Mrs. Roosevelt revealed yesterday that she would not participate in the town meeting nor aid in arrangements for it because she disagreed with the A. Y. C.'s attitude on American foreign policy.

The First Lady said she did not feel that A. Y. C.'s opposition to conscription last summer and its present opposition to increased aid to Britain were realistic.

President and Mrs. Roosevelt both spoke to the Youth Congress last year. Mrs. Roosevelt also attended many of the sessions, had youth leaders as guests at the White House and defended the A. Y. C. vigorously against charges before the Dies Committee that it was a "Communist-front" organization.

Mrs. Roosevelt said yesterday she still believes most of the young people are completely sincere, although, as last year, certain of its members are Communists.

The youth leaders, headed by Joseph Cadden, A. Y. C. secretary, will be accompanied by representatives of Negro, religious, professional and civil rights groups when they call upon the Vice President at 10 a. m. today.

The A. Y. C. faced no such problem last year, leaders explained, because the meetings were held in the departmental auditorium, and the Negro delegates could eat in Government cafeterias. This year's sessions, beginning Friday, will be held at Turner's Arena.

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Mrs. Roosevelt said that Government officials must sponsor meetings in the departmental auditorium and no official evidently has been willing to do so this year.

Gadsden, Ala., Times
August 14, 1942

Mrs. Roosevelt Urges Equal Opportunities

SALISBURY, N. C., Aug. 14.—(AP) Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt told a Negro youth discussion group here that "we must try with all our might to bring about recognition of the fact that man must have equal opportunity to get any job he is capable of filling."

"Minority groups in the United States have taken work bringing small incomes, and therefore set the whole economic level very low, for no other reason but that they belonged to the minority group. This applies to groups other than Negroes," she said.

Mrs. Roosevelt spoke at the convention on Christian Education of the Afro-Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
December 16, 1942



THIS MORNING

by JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES, II

"Competition is the life of trade —and the rule of getting your case considered."

* * *

The simple solution of the situation which seems to be telling many Southerners that they are excused from any more of blind allegiance to the Democratic party but a new life here for the well-known Republican party. What has held the South Democratic through the years has been the willingness of the party to leave us alone with our Negro question. Now that the vote of the Negro in pivotal states like Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Pennsylvania and New York has become as important to the party as the vote of the white man in the South and is sure to be bid for on a basis of concessions that will displease the white South, the basis of our political solidarity has disappeared. There is no more reason for being a Democrat in the South now than for being a Republican now insofar as the race question is concerned (and vice versa, be it noted, no more reason for being a Republican than a Democrat).

* * *

Proposals to organize a new Southern party or have the South send electors to the electoral college committed to the candidate of neither party and prepared to bargain with each will get nowhere, in our opinion. Once we are relieved of loyalty to the Democratic party because of the race issue there is not enough unanimity among us to bring us all together anywhere else. Especially behind reactionaries.

* * *

But if, because neither of the two existing parties can be sure of the South any longer on a basis of the race question, there comes to be a strong and challenging Republican party here, why is not that a sound solution? Both parties will have to bid for the South then just as they are bidding for the Northern Negro vote now. That will create an automatic protection for the South's special situation, needs and points of view on the complicated race question. And do it without making hateful division between white and black a thing of actual organization as would be the case if there were a separate Southern party.

* * *

The South needs two political parties. It is at last in a position to have two. And no matter what is planned or opposed, the South is very probably on the way to having two. Their names will be the Democratic party and the Republican party. Unless, as Nicholas Murray Butler has suggested, the Republican kindly change their name in order to let Southerners vote the principles without having to violate lifelong antipathy to the name. With two parties really contending for this region, there would be an improved political health both for the nation and the South. In the nation the South would no longer be a deadweight in favor of one side without regard to the issues. And in the South there would be a clarification of political thinking and a competitive political spur.

* * *

All the things that divide Democrats and Republicans elsewhere, or will hereafter, divide us just as sharply, if not more so, here. We are as divided as the rest of the country on union labor. We hated each other as psychopathically as any others about the New Deal. We have an industrial establishment now which changes the point of view of many of us on questions between agriculture and industry, including the tariff question. We disagree very fundamentally on the gathering issue of free economy against controlled economy. We shall be doing our part of the disagreeing on matters international when the war ends. We need two parties.

* * *

But if another way can be found to have our special regional problems politically respected and to make our vote in the nation worth bidding and conceding for, we don't want a separate political organization or stand. That would only aggravate sectional differences, make more ghastly the race problem. We don't want to be a land apart from the United States. We believe in this country. We are spending our lives and money to save it right now. We want no second secession. We want only to be respected in the part we represent in the nation. And we can get that respect by giving each of the two great existing national parties enough support to make ourselves as much worth bidding for as, say, Indiana, Illinois and Ohio.

* * *

The best and perhaps only way for the South to have its vital regional need given adequate political consideration is by making the two existing parties compete for the Southern vote—in party conventions, in national elections and in Congress. Let's not secede. Let's just be doubtful states.

52d-1942

NEGRO CHURCH LEADER CALLS FOR G.O.P. VOTES

OCT 25 1942

Hails Brooks; Blasts U. S. Suit Against AP.

[Chicago Tribune Press Service.]

New York, Oct. 24.—Dr. D. V. Jamison, president of the National Baptist convention, today called upon Negroes to vote for Republican candidates for congress as the only way for colored people to secure justice and freedom.

Speaking before the New York state Baptist convention in Union Baptist church here, the Negro church leader said Negroes cannot hope to obtain constitutional rights from the Democratic party because it is controled by the solid south of racial discrimination and segregation.

"I unreservedly indorse the appeal of Edgar G. Brown, director of the National Negro council, to colored voters in the north to elect a Republican majority to the house of representatives, which will elevate Rep. Joseph Martin [R., Mass.] to the speakership instead of Rep. Sam Rayburn [D., Tex.], who represents a poll tax state," he said.

OCT 25 1942

Southern Restrictions Charged.

"The Democratic party is controled by the solid south more than ever today and the only way for the colored people to secure justice and freedom from 'Jim Crow' segregation, abuse of soldiers in southern camps, denial of equal educational opportunities, adequate health services, employment in war industries, and protection in colored communities is to return to the Republican party.

"We stand back of the National Negro council's indorsement of Sen. Wayland Brooks [R., Ill.], who gave the colored man his greatest gift since Abraham Lincoln promulgated emancipation, by his successful support of the anti-poll tax amendment to the soldier's vote law. We call for the election of such Republican candidates as Thomas E. Dewey for governor of New York, John Bricker for governor of Ohio, Edward Martin for governor of Pennsylvania, and Albert W. Hanks for senator from New Jersey because his opponent, Sen. William H. Smathers [D., N. J.] voted against the anti-poll tax amendment."

Denounces Suit Against AP.

Dr. Jamison denounced the New Deal anti-trust action brought against the Associated Press as dangerous tampering with freedom of the press, declaring the department of justice might better serve the country by halting lynchings. He added:

"It is most fitting and proper as the spokesman for millions of churchmen and women in all sections of the country, many of them already denied the fundamental right to exercise their franchise, particularly in the southern states, that religious people should look with grave apprehension upon any action by the government such as its recent suit against the Associated Press, which might subsequently, by court decision, lead to governmental regulation in the publication of news.

OCT 25 1942

"It appears that the United States department of justice could better serve the public interest thru the initiation of legal steps to implement the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments to the constitution and guarantee the rights of all Americans to vote regardless of race, creed, or color. It would be most timely for the justice department to ferret out the perpetrators of three recent lynchings in Mississippi—two of them 14 year old boys."

G.O.P.

THE PARTY OF PROMISE TO THE OPPRESSED.

OCT 27 1942

Dr. D. V. Jamison, president of the National Baptist convention, is the latest Negro leader to call upon his race to recognize that their hope rests in the Republican party. Dr. Jamison indorsed the appeal of Edgar G. Brown, director of the National Negro council, to colored voters in the north to elect a Republican majority to the house of representatives on Nov. 3. He stressed the fact that the northern colored citizen who has the franchise, denied to colored men and women in the south, owes a duty to his brothers in the southern states. He must cast his ballot so that it will be an instrument of their liberation.

OCT 27 1942

Dr. Jamison pointed out that the solid ranks of Democratic congressmen from the south have used their power as a political bloc to retard the development of the colored citizen and to deny him his constitutional rights. The abuse of colored soldiers in southern camps, the denial of equal educational opportunities, adequate health services, employment in war industries, and protection under the law are a few of the offenses to be charged against these men. "The only way for colored people to secure justice and freedom," Dr. Jamison said, "is to return to the Republican party."

He asserted that the sincere dedication of Republicans to the interests of the Negro is demonstrated by the fact that the party has offered, not promises, but performance. The greatest single stroke delivered in behalf of the colored man since his emancipation, Dr. Jamison pointed out, was the removal of the poll tax qualification for voting by service men. This measure was brought to passage thru the courage and advocacy of Illinois' Republican senator, Wayland Brooks. Dr. Jamison said that it was elementary self-interest that the colored citizen support those who support him.

OCT 27 1942

The Negro has had ample opportunty to observe that, where the New Deal gives only lip service to the extension of fundamental civil rights to the Negro, the Republican party helps him to get them.

Argus

St. Louis, Missour:

MISS BURROUGHS' MISINFORMATION

As we listened to Miss Nannie Burroughs speak at the Castle Hall Monday night, she had our sympathy as she struggled with her talents in an endeavor to make a political speech championing the cause of the G. O.P. That Miss Burroughs is an eloquent speaker, there isn't the slightest doubt in the minds of those who have heard her on other occasions. But the other night she was decidedly at a disadvantage. When she attempted to bolster the virtues of the Republican party she soon found herself lost for lack of deeds by the GOP which would appeal to present day Negroes. Then, too, she was face to face with the good deeds of the present national administration under the leadership of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. She did not tell her audience that more Negroes now hold jobs in the higher brackets in this government than ever before. She did not say that Mrs. Mary Bethune, a colored woman, holds the highest job under the New Deal than any other member of her race; nor did she say that Mrs. Bethune was a welcome visitor at the White House where she confers with the Chief Executive of the nation.

OCT 23 1942

Of course, Miss Burroughs endeavored to make it appear that all the ills from which we suffer were at the hands of the Democrats. In this effort she showed that she was woefully lacking in her knowledge of the facts or else she was just making a talk to fit the price which she was paid to come to St. Louis. To be sure we have no objection to Miss Burroughs talking for the money. Hundreds, yes thousands, are doing the same thing today. Some of them, naturally can't see facts because their minds are absorbed in the thought of the pay check.

Everybody knows that during most of the past 75 years in which the Negroes have been free of chattel slavery the Republican party has been in power at Washington. It has the power to guard the citizenship rights of the Negroes, if it had had the will to do so. More has been done under the present Democratic administration to stamp out the inequalities in the South during the past ten years than was done under Republican rule during fifty years. These are facts. The Negro farmer has been helped as never before. Look for a moment at the hundreds, yes thousands of Negro homes which have been saved through the social legislation of the New Deal — the Home Owners Loan, RFC, etc. — and be reminded that this was done not as a war measure, but because the people had a sympathetic leader at the head of our government.

OCT 23 1942

Of course, we do not claim that the present administration has done all we had hoped for, especially under what we call "war powers," but who amongst us cannot see a great change in our living status? The President wrote an executive order 8802 barring discrimination in work against anyone on account of race, creed or national origin. We all are agreed that its purpose was to help the Negro to get work. We have new advantages in the army, navy, marine corps and aviation. "Oh, well,", some one says, "the war forces action of this sort." But remember, this all-out global war has not reached the forced stage as yet, so far as the people of America are concerned. Whatever the results have been, the WILL TO DO on the part of the national administration, acting in conjunction with circumstances, has brought all this to pass. Don't let anyone fool you.

OCT 23 1942

We mention these things lest the people be misled into voting against their own best interests.

52d-1942
Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

NEGRO GOP's GIVEN RECOGNITION DURING MISSOURI STATE MEET

SEP 19 1942 SEP 19 1942

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Sept 17.—While but brief notice was paid to the race situation at the annual meeting of the Missouri State Republican Committee and the Missouri State Republican Convention in the senate chambers at the State Capitol, Tuesday, September 8, recognition was given racial members of the party in attendance.

Constable W. A. "Billy" Morant of St. Louis, veteran member of the State committee was given the honor of presenting Gov. Forrest C. Donnell at the open public meeting in the Senate Chamber. The two St. Louis women who have served several terms as state committeewomen, were also honored, Mrs. Ione Penrose, whose two sons are in service, escorted the newly elected state chairman, Grover Dalton, to his seat while Mrs. Beulah Ellis with Mrs. Cleta Smith, retiring vice-state chairman, escorted Mrs. Josephine Omera, white Martinsburg, Mo. publisher, to her seat following her election as state vice-chairman.

RACE MEMBER ON RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

Attorney John A. Davis of St. Louis, Twenty-third Ward Republican committeeman, was a member of the resolutions committee. Appearing before the resolutions committee were Attorney Hendy D. Espy and Publisher N. A. Sweets.

SEP 19 1942

Among the race members in attendance were: Legislative Candidate George W. Carper, Mrs. Lillian Baker, Connie Ray, N. A. Sweets, Dr. George J. Dixon, Mrs. Beatrice Scott, Constable Langston Harrison, Attorney John A. Davis, the Rev. Jasper C. Caston, James Rogers, Mrs. Ellen Ware, E. N. Davis, Mrs. Beulah Ellis, Mrs. Ione Penrose, Constable W. A. Morant and Attorney Henry D. Espy of St. Louis.

H. O. Williams, T. B. Watkins, Mrs. Mary E. Waters and Attorney L. A. Knox of Kansas City; Dr. J. R. A. Crossland of St. Joseph and Attorney R. S. Cobb of Jefferson City.

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

ABLE LAWYER OF MEMPHIS CHOSEN FOR G. O. P. POST

SEP 18 1942

Josiah T. Settle, Jr., Takes "Bob" Church's Place on Republican Committee

SEP 18 1942

MEMPHIS, Tenn., (Special) — Josiah T. Settle, Jr., successful lawyer and a staunch party member, was chosen as the successor of Robert R. (Bob) Church on the Republican State Committee in the primary of Sept. 6. Church, who had served on the committee for many years, now lives in Philadelphia and was not a candidate for the position. He is reported to have wanted young Dr. Martin, or Lieut. George W. Lee chosen as his successor but other party leaders here and elsewhere in the state preferred Atty. Settle.

Atty' Settle is a brilliant lawyer, the son of a former noted lawyer of Memphis, is popular with both races. It is expected he will perform his services on the state committee faithfully and well.

Attorney Settle is one of the three colored Republicans on the State Committee. The other two are R. C. Grant and Mrs. Sophia Carter of Nashville.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

NEGRO LEADER CALLS FOR NEW DEAL'S DEFEAT

OCT 9 - 1942

Council Chief Asks Race to Vote Republican.

OCT 9 - 1942

BY WALTER TROHAN.

[Chicago Tribune Press Service.]

Washington, D. C., Oct. 8.—The New Deal has deserted the Negroes, Edgar G. Brown, director of the National Negro council and president of the United Government Employés, charged tonight in calling on members of his race to vote for Republican members of congress.

Brown, who voted for Cox and Roosevelt in 1920, John W. Davis in 1924, Al Smith in 1928 and President Roosevelt in 1932, 1936, and 1940, said he no longer can support the present administration and the Democratic party.

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The attitude of the administration and Democratic party is unfavorable to the 13 million Negro citizens and the 400,000 Negro soldiers serving in the armed forces, Brown declared.

Speaks First Hand.

Brown said he spoke authoritatively because for ten years he has been active in the national capital as a representative of the Negro people in federal legislation and administrative acts affecting the welfare of the race. Brown continued:

"The recent and active opposition of the Democratic leadership in the house and senate, with an overwhelming majority of Democrats in congress, in defeating the nondiscrimination amendment to the economic stabilization law, introduced by Rep. George Bender [R., O.], Sen. Alexander Wiley [R., Wis.], and Sen. James Tunnell [D., Del.], proves conclusively that the so-called New Deal Democratic party has gone sour on the Negro and capitulated body and soul to the 'Jim Crow' disfranchisement and discrimination pattern of the south.

OCT 9 - 1942

Raps Byrnes' Appointment.

"The further proof, if any were needed, that the south is completely in the saddle was made crystal clear by President Roosevelt's appointment this week of James F. Byrnes of South Carolina as director of the Economic Stabilization board and his refusal to give recognition to the 13 million Negroes, one-tenth of the total population of the country, by the appointment of A. Philip Randolph on the 14 member board.

"Director Byrnes has failed to give any assurance that Negroes will be guaranteed representation on the 8,000 price and rationing boards in the country. His first act was the announcement of no Negroes on the Economic Stabilization board and the appointment of Donald Russell of South Carolina as chief counsel to issue all rules."

Lauds Brooks' Leadership.

Brown said the only favorable and positive legislation taken by this congress to advance the fundamental and constitutional rights of the Negro was introduced and championed successfully by Sen. Wayland Brooks [R., Ill.]. He referred to the anti-poll tax amendment to the soldiers' vote law.

"As an ex-service man," Brown said, "I propose to join with the voting Negro soldiers in punishing our enemies and rewarding our friends. I will speak and vote for the election of Republicans to congress next Nov. 3.

OCT 9 - 1942

"I would rather see, after Jan. 1, 1943, Congressman Joseph Martin, Massachusetts Republican, speaker than Congressman Sam Rayburn of Texas, the state of the white Democratic primary.

Reviews Acts of Terror.

"When a Negro minister and his family are terrorized for asking Negro soldiers to write his name on a war ballot against Rep. John E. Rankin [D., Miss.]; when the attorney general of the United States says there is nothing that can be done by the justice department about the brutal attack upon two Negro ministers of the gospel, both past 75 years of age, while traveling on a railroad train from Washington to Memphis in September, 1942, and when the federal government under the Office of Defense Transportation has a budget of 10 million dollars and hires not one Negro executive or investigator, then I for one am compelled to stop, look, and listen before marking another 'X' for my enemies."

Brown said the only way for Negroes to help in strengthening the cause of democracy—discouraged beatings and lynchings; punish political enemies; protest against discrimination, and get full representation—is to get the Democrats out of power and vote Republicans into congress.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

REWARDING FRIENDS.

OCT 13 1942

For the last 10 years Edgar G. Brown, director of the National Negro council, has been in Washington as a representative of his people in federal legislation and administrative acts affecting the welfare of the race. He has seen what the New Deal could have done to advance the interests of colored citizens and to help them assert their constitutional rights. He has also seen what it has done or failed to do. He concludes that the New Deal has deserted the Negroes.

Mr. Brown has given the Democrats a fair chance. He voted Democratic in every Presidential election since 1920. But, he says, "the so-called New Deal Democratic party has gone sour on the Negro and capitulated body and soul to the Jim Crow disfranchisement and discrimination pattern of the south. As an ex-service man, I propose to join with the voting Negro soldiers in punishing our enemies and rewarding our friends. I will speak and vote for the election of Republicans to congress next Nov. 3. I, for one, am compelled to stop, look, and listen before marking another 'X' for my enemies."

OCT 9 1942

Mr. Brown cites many proofs of how his race has been abandoned by the New Deal party. Its congressional majority defeated a nondiscrimination amendment to the economic stabilization law, and a race comprising one-tenth of the population is refused one place on the 14 man Economic Stabilization board. There is no assurance that Negroes will be given representation on the 8,000 price and rationing boards in the country. As president of the United Government Employés, Mr. Brown has also seen the indifference of the New Deal party to giving a proper apportionment of federal offices and jobs to Negroes.

The Negro has been served in government, Mr. Brown says, by Republicans, and by Republicans only. The outstanding example of that service which he cites was Sen. Wayland Brooks' anti-poll tax amendment enfranchising Negroes in the armed services. Sen. Brooks recognized that this country cannot with propriety make preachments to the world as long as it condones unjust treatment of its own citizens. Those who hope for a better world will join in believing that the place to start making it is here.

OCT 13 1942

Columbia, S. C. Record
September 24, 1942

Tolbert Group Meet Delayed

Leader Says Faction Will Have No Candidates In Election

Early this afternoon, the state convention of the group of Republicans who followed the leadership of Joseph W. (Tieless Joe) Tolbert of Ninety-Six, had not begun, Tolbert explaining that they were waiting on delegates from "a few more counties."

When Tolbert made the annuoncement explaining the delay in the start of the meeting, approximately 25 delegates, almost all of them Negroes, had arrived in the old Masonic hall in the 1100 block of Washington street.

Tolbert announced positively that his group would not enter candidates in the November election for congress. Previously, he had said there was a possibility of this.

He did say officers of the group would be elected at today's meeting.

Gerald Group

The South Carolina Republican party, a group led by J. Bates Gerald, of Summerton and Charleston, as state chairman, held its convention here last Tuesday, and decided to leave to its executive committee the question of whether it would enter candidates in the November elections. This group enjoys the official recognition of the national Republican party.

At a meeting here yesterday, Richland county Republicans who follow Tolbert's leadership met and elected delegates to today's convention. They call themselves "Old Line" Republicans. Also, they elected county officers.

The following were elected: I. S. Leevy, county chairman; E. F. Calhoun, vice chairman; the Rev. L. C. Jenkins, secretary; R. A. Miller, assistant secretary, and H. R. Lindsay, treasurer.

Among the resolutions adopted was one endorsing the nation's effort under President Roosevelt, and another endorsing the movement to permit Negroes to participate as voters in the Democratic party's primary elections. Also, endorsement of the bill now before congress to abolish the poll tax was voted.

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
September 28, 1942

Fickle, Willkie

Editor, The Telegraph:

Whenever a bigger ass is made of anyone Windy Willkie will doubtless make it of himself. As nearly as I can follow his conduct —which is, to say the least, erratic—he is trying to make himself all things to all people. Paul tried this and doubtless succeeded [I Corinthians 9:20-22], but Willkie has made an utter failure of it all. I guess you've noticed a tomtit—how he is first on one side of the limb and then on the other. That's Windy. Unstable as water, he shall never excel.

On July 19, 1942, he addressed the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People of Los Angeles. In the course of that address, he made this statement: "We have become a people whose first interests are beyond the seas."

That describes Willkie. If his first interests are beyond the seas, then he should lose no time getting there. Mr. Willkie recently announced in Chicago that he meant to go into the primaries and elections of the various states and work for the defeat of "isolationist" candidates. In condemning these, he likewise condemned himself. In the presidential campaign of 1940—less than two years ago, remember—he loped all over this country denouncing foreign entanglements. At Cambridge, Mass., on Oct. 11, 1940, Mr. Willkie said:

"We can have peace, but we must begin to preserve it. To begin with, we shall not undertake to fight anybody else's war. Our boys shall stay out of Europe. None of us is so simple to think that Hitler is planning this moment to send an expeditionary force across the Atlantic. He is aware that if we make democracy strong here, his own system of blood and tyranny cannot survive forever."

He later branded all this as "mere campaign oratory," but in doing so he signed his own political death warrant. If the opposition have nothing better to offer, then they might just as well scuttle all election machinery and crown Franklin emperor for keeps. Fickle to the core, Willkie betrayed twenty two million fellow Americans, and real men and women have no love for traitors.

CHARLES E. GIBSON.
Thomaston.

Savannah, Ga., Press
October 9, 1942

NEGRO VOTERS URGED TO BACK REPUBLICANS

Leader Claims That Administration Has "Gone Sour."

WASHINGTON, Oct. 9 (UP).—Edward G. Brown, director of the National Negro Council, today called on negroes to vote the Republican ticket in November because "the so-called New Deal Democratic party has gone sour on the negro."

Brown, who also is president of the United Government Employes said he "can no longer support the present administration and the Democratic party in their attitude toward 13,000,000 negro people, 400,000 of whom are in the armed services fighting and dying for democracy abroad."

He charged the Democrats had "capitulated body and soul to the 'Jim Crow' disfranchisement and discrimination pattern of the South."

Brown said he had supported the Democratic ticket since 1920, but active opposition of the Democratic leadership" to non-discrimination measures had made him change his mind.

"The only way to help the morale of the negroes in this world crisis . . . Is to elect Republicans to Congress, who will uphold the Constitution and guarantee the franchise to the other 10,000,000 negroes in the 'Jim Crow' Democratic South before it is too late," he said.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

OCT 21 1942

House Argues Over Brown's 'Switch'

WASHINGTON — (A N P)—Ten pages of the Congressional Record of Wednesday, Oct. 14, were devoted to arguments by Democrats and Republican members of the house over Edgar G. Brown, whom John Rankin of Mississippi describes as "this Negro Brown who parades around here with the 'emptiness of ages in his face' and on his chin the beard of Hercules."

Congressman Arthur Mitchell began the fireworks when he took the floor and denounced Brown, who has recently announced his allegiance to the Republican party, as a "superconfidence man, belonging to that group of racketeering so-called race leaders that always go around with their hands out seeking money, prestige, recognition and power for themselves, only at the same time caring absolutely nothing for the group."

Mitchell introduced into the Record a lengthy statement on what the New Deal had done for Negroes.

Congressman Rich, Republican of Pennsylvania, here asked Mr. Mitchell whether or not this was a political speech or one to enlighten the Negroes of America. Mr. Mitchell replied it was a speech to enlighten him as well as the Negroes of America. "Brown is looking for money," he added.

After digressing for a brief spell, the congressman, relishing their opportunity to discuss Brown, leaped to the fight. First, there was Congressman Ditter, Republican of Pennsylvania, who was eager to gouge into the "trough" business of the New Deal.

While Ditter spoke and castigated the "spoils" system through which the New Deal had apparently continued its existence, Mitchell vainly clamored for the floor.

Again Ditter: 'Can it be that loyalty to the New Deal is based on privilege and patronage and plenteous feeding at a political trough? Are we to understand that the New Deal must depend on the public pay rolls for loyalty and devotion? Shall it be said that the New Dealers are New Dealers only so long as they can feed at a political trough?"

Here Rankin got in his barbs and shafts and added to the general name calling and commotion.

He blasted everything, including the crime wave in Washington which he laid at Brown's door; he discussed the golf links situation; he went into the Bureau of Engraving and Printing mess, he slung mud and then added:

"I would be the last man in the world to criticize the First Lady of the land, but I think I express the sentiment of the entire south, and I think the colored people too, when I say that some of her statements and activities have done irreparable damage to the white people, as well as to the Negroes, in the southern states."

OCT 21 194

Here he took the occasion to express the sentiment of the bourbon south and those southerners who have inculcated other areas with their beliefs;

"You can pass all the laws the statute books will stand and you cannot make white people employ Negroes if they are not wanted.

"Do not you demagogs get the idea that the Negro is just a sunburned Yankee. This is not his idea. He knows he is of a different race. He calls himself a Negro and it is no disgrace to him to be one. He knows his limitations and he knows when he is treated right."

After consuming much time debating the cause of Edgar Brown the house went about transacting important national business.

52d-1942
Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Republicans "Miss The Bus"

NOV 7 - 1942

LATE in September the Republican members of the House of Representatives, under their leader, Joseph W. Martin, of Massachusetts, adopted a 10-point declaration of policies and principles, which, among other things, called upon the present administration for "the full and immediate utilization by the President of the most capable and efficient military and civilian leadership."

NOV 7 - 1942

The nearest that the House Republicans came to making their declaration of policies and principles fully democratic and inclusive of all of the American people, was when they said in point four: "The patriotism and sacrifice of the people must be matched by the selection of the most capable and best trained leaders in America regardless of **party, group, class,** or **section.** That is explicit, but not sufficiently inclusive in the Republican tradition, which would have gone a step farther and said, "regardless of **race, creed,** or **color.**"

But the Republican party of today is by no stretch of the imagination the Republican party of a quarter century ago. We would probably have to go back a few decades beyond that point to identify the Republican party with human rights. The House group which brought forth the remarkable 10 points devoted point nine chiefly to a demand for a cessation of "non-defense spending." By this is meant that the Republicans would join with a good many Southern Democrats in laying aside such useful agencies as the Farm Security Administration, which is self liquidating, and which, if it had been given a chance, would have solved one of our most critical domestic problems during the war.

The House Republicans pledged whole-hearted support to the Administration's war effort, reserving, of course, the right to criticize, and to insist upon the adoption of ways and means suggested by them for improving and strengthening the war effort. But the Republicans missed an opportunity to strike a real blow for democracy.

Amsterdam Star-News
New York, N. Y.

COLUMN ONE

Republicans Wooing South

New Committeeman Announces Policy GOP Will Follow

DEC 19 1942

By DAN BURLEY

ARRISON E. SPANGLER, the new Republican National Chairman, said in an interview at St Louis last week:

"There are a great many people in the South violently opposed to the New Deal. I am quite sure that some time, I don't know whether it will be in 1944, those states are finally going to break away from the old Democratic tradition that dates back to the carpetbagger days.

"The field is there and it is fertile. There no longer is a lack of community interests between the North and South as there used to be. As time goes on the interests of the two sections are becoming more closely identified.

"We certainly are going to extend to the South a cordial welcome to join the crusade."

DEC 19 1942

Mr. Spangler is considered a middle-of-the-road Republican, and was selected mainly as a compromise chairman to keep Wendell Willkie from control of the policies of the G. O. P. His acceptance at the party caucus meeting, held recently in St. Louis, was a blow to the hopes of those who had hoped the Republican party, so long out of power, was ready to come to life again.

Negroes Won't Forget Dark Era of Hooverism

His announced intention of wooing and placating the so-called "Solid South" is being viewed with misgivings by Negro followers of the Grand Old Party, who won't soon forget how Herbert Hoover went hook, line and sinker for the lily-white ideal in playing up to the South after he was elected by landslide vote in 1928 and how he suffered the consequences when the Negro vote went to Roosevelt in 1932, sending him down in a bigger landslide of ignominous defeat.

As pointed out exclusively by this newspaper last summer, long before contemporaries gave it mention, the South has been heading for a showdown with Roosevelt and his Administration on the Negro issue for a long, long time. It has done everything in its power to thwart or block his efforts to include the Negro in the countless social reforms for which the New Deal can claim exclusive credit.

DEC 19 1942

The issue has become so bitter that Southern leaders and so-called liberals are accused of a willingness to lose the war rather than to let go their peculiar prejudices based on color. John Temple Graves, editor of the Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald, in a long and passionate discourse in the Autumn issue of the Virginia Quarterly, outlined the reasons why the South does not intend to give in on the race issue and ominously warned the Negro not to demand his rights now, but wait for some vague whim of the future white man of the South to set him free.

New Leader Complains Of Business Policies

DEC 19 1942

Mr. Spangler further declared, in response to a question on what the G. O. P. will have to offer in 1944:

"It has been 10 years now since this New Deal has started its gradual process of taking us into a collective and regimented state and of absolutely ruining private enterprise and initiative. It has been circumscribing us with so many edicts, regulations and rules that our very liberties are at stake. The American way, after all, is the great beacon of self-government for all the peoples in the world. While it may have its disadvantages, it still is the best way ever devised. The separation of powers in the local, state and national fields and the checks and balances in the legislative, executive and judicial functions are characteristics of self-government that have helped make us a great nation. The New Deal centers not only the rights of the states, but even the functions of the legislative and judicial branches in the Chief Executive in Washington."

PROBE OPENS ON FSA POLL TAX PAYMENTS

Birmingham Ala. Birmingham Post

By John L. Steele
United Press Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—The joint congressional committee on non-essential Federal expenditures today hears charges that Farm Security Administration funds have been used to pay poll taxes of some Alabama citizens "who vote the right way."

The committee will hear testimony from Probate Judge Robert K. Greene of Hale County, Ala., one of a group of citizens filing affidavits on charges which one farm state senator predicted may develop into "a first-class national scandal."

The senator, who declined use of his name, said in an interview that Department of Agriculture and FSA field personnel "is shot through with politics," adding that an investigation of field activities would present "some most enlightening information."

The committee in its first public hearing, also will receive recommendations from representatives of the American Farm Bureau Federation for "improved administration" of the farm program. One spokesman for the Farm Bureau said it would present recommendations for economies and for "ending the overlapping of Agriculture Department and FSA functions."

The committee, headed by Sen. Harry F. Byrd (D., Va.), recently recommended abolishment of FSA at an estimated cash saving to the Government of $70,500,000 annually, plus authorization to borrow funds now set at $50,000,000.

No reasons were given for the recommendation, and it brought a sharp retort from Sen. Robert M. La Follette Jr. (Prog., Wis.) who in a minority committee report termed committee recommendations "hasty and unwarranted."

La Follette yesterday reiterated that "no other agency in our Government has a more impressive record of helpful service to the people of this nation than the Farm Security Administration." He said it had "tackled the problems of rural poverty at the roots, where the strength of democracy lies."

Byrd indicated to reporters that today's session was the first of a series of open hearings on suggestions for economies in all regular establishments of the Federal Government.

"We are interested in going into the spending policies, expenses, work accomplished and losses of other Federal agencies," he said.

Charges of irregular expenditures of FSA funds made by Alabama citizens allege that the agency provided funds to selected persons who had made poll tax payments with their own earnings, and that in some cases borrowers of FSA funds were required to utilize a portion of the funds for payment of the tax.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

FARM SECURITY BUREAU SPENDING CALLED DISGRACE

List 'Indefensible' Acts, Demand Investigation.

BY WILLIAM STRAND.
[Chicago Tribune Press Service.]

Washington, D. C., Feb. 6.—Demands for a thoro investigation of the Farm Security administration were heard today by a joint congressional committee investigating non-essential federal expenditures. Testimony disclosed that FSA funds have been used to pay poll taxes of its clients while various other practices of the administration were described as "a national disgrace."

Edward A. O'Neal, president of the American farm bureau federation, charged the FSA with soliciting clients to find an outlet for the funds appropriated by congress and with burdening farmers with excessive debts in order to insure government control over them.

Lists 9 "Indefensible" Practices.

Urging a congressional inquiry, he listed nine instances of what he termed indefensible practices on the part of the Farm Security administration. They were as follows:

1. Assignment of quotas of the number of clients to be secured in counties in order to expend appropriated by congress and to maintain personnel employed by the agency.

2. Widespread solicitation of clients in order to meet quotas.

3. Burdening of clients with excessive loans beyond their ability ever to repay.

4. Establishment of impractical collective farming projects.

5. The policy of making grant payments from federal emergency relief funds, for which the farm security appears to be a certifying agency, as a means of enabling clients to repay loans rather than using such funds to relieve destitution.

Show Unpaid Loans as Paid.

6. Use of numerous devices, such as the substitution of grant payments, renewal notes and the five-year and 10-year variable payment plans as a means of showing that loans have been collected when actually little or no collections have been made.

7. Flagrant attempts to build up pressure groups to maintain congressional appropriations.

8. Instances of refusal to accept payment of indebtedness in full or to make full reimbursement of overpayments evidently for the purpose of maintaining governmental control over the individual.

9. Rigid control of business and farming plans of the clients, amounting to complete regimentation, and in this way destroying the initiative and self serspect of the clients.

O'Neal also endorsed charges of other witnesses that use of the FSA funds to pay roll taxes is illegal.

Charges Attempt to Buy Votes.

Probate Judge Robert K. Greene of Hale county, Alabama, had told the committee that he discovered that the farm administration was paying these taxes for white farmers and their wives and children of voting age. He charged the administration with attempting to buy votes in violation of the Alabama state constitution and United States law.

Payment of the taxes was admitted by C. D. Baldwin, farm security administrator, who insisted that the right of citizens to vote should be encouraged. He said the farm administration's aim was to rehabilitate its clients which included payment of all taxes, adding that he saw no reason to discriminate between poll taxes and property levies.

Use Tax to Control Ballot.

Poll taxes are regarded in some quarters as devices whereby southern political machines exclude poor whites and negroes from voting and thereby maintain control over the ballot box. In most cases the tax is $1.50 per head and is cumulative up to a maximum of $36 from the time the citizen becomes 21 years old.

Eight states—Alabama, Georgia, Texas, Mississippi, South Carolina, Virginia, Arkansas, and Tennessee—now have poll taxes as a requirement for voting. Bills are pending in both houses of congress which would abolish them thruout the country.

Greene's testimony and that of Baldwin enlivened the hearing by precipitating a heated controversy on sectional lines.

"Poll taxes," Greene drawled in his best Alabama accent, "are a deterrent against carpet bagger rule."

"Failure to allow payment of taxes would be disfranchisement," Baldwin retorted. "The franchise is the crown and seal of democracy."

Assail Poll Tax Payments.

Baldwin's statement that he would continue to authorize payment of poll taxes unless prohibited by congressional action drew hot replies from three committee Democrats, each from a poll tax state. They were: Senators Carter Glass [Va.], Kenneth McKellar [Tenn.], and Harry F. Byrd [Va.].

As this trio interrupted Baldwin's replies to demand "yes" or "no" answers, two northern senators, Robert M. La Follette [Prog., Wis.] and Gerald P. Nye [R., N. D.], objected to the questioning on the ground that the witness was not being given a fair opportunity to respond.

Glass and McKellar asked Baldwin about the failure of his organization to grant loans for the payment of poll taxes to Negroes of Alabama. "So far as I know, we haven't made any loans to colored people for poll taxes, since they probably couldn't qualify under other restrictions to vote anyway," Baldwin said.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
April 8, 1942

Minority Rule

Here in Alabama, we have minority rule. Of course, we elect our officials, send our representatives to the national Congress, elect our convention delegates, by a democratic method; but the fact remains that we have minority rule. Our record at the polls proves this; whatever our methods of governing, the facts are conclusive.

The United States Bureau of Census reports that our state has 1,555,369 potential voters. Our largest vote on record was in 1938 when 314,380 persons cast ballots in a single primary.

These figures can be broken down. It is possible to point out the large number of Negroes who do not vote, the numbers of so-called "poor whites" who do not vote, the numbers of women who do not avail themselves of their once hard-fought-for right. But these things are well known to all who are interested in the situation. The hard fact remains that we are ruled by a minority. Are we content to let it remain so?

Birmingham, Ala. News
April 8, 1942

Our Non-Voters

A minority of Alabama white adults decides political questions in this state. This is the fact behind the report of the U. S. Census Bureau that Alabama has a potential voting list of 1,555,368 persons among its 2,915,841 total population. This includes persons of all ages from 21 years up, not counting aliens. However, as there are only about 5,000 aliens in the state, they do not affect percentages materially.

If the proportion of whites and Negroes in the total population is carried out among those of voting age, there are 1,010,990 potential white voters in the state. Excluding convicts and the insane, there are in round numbers a million white adults in the state who could qualify to vote. There are a half million Negroes of voting age.

But what is our voting record? The largest vote ever cast in Alabama was in the 1938 Democratic primary, when 314,380 persons voted. In the general election of 1940, in addition to the Democratic votes, there were 43,481 votes for minor parties, or a total of 357,861 ballots cast in elections expected to bring out the largest vote.

Even assuming that all those 357,861 voters were white (which, of course, they were not), it would appear that only 35 per cent of all white adults vote in Alabama.

The matter can be brought closer home. Jefferson County's population in the 1940 census was 459,930. Applying the proportions of adults and of white residents that apply to the state as a whole, it appears that there are approximately 175,000 whites of voting age in this county. The registrar's books list about 62,000 persons in Jefferson registered to vote. About 2,000 are Negroes, leaving 60,000 qualified white voters out of a potential 175,000. Roughly, that is one person out of three. Of the 62,000 registered, the county has never polled more than 45,000 votes in any one election.

All these figures only verify what is a general observation, that Alabama people do not vote. One reason may be found in the dominance of one party in this state, although that reason falls down when one considers the size of the vote cast in Democratic primaries. Another reason may exist in the state's election laws, particularly the requirement of poll tax payment as a prerequisite to voting.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Shore's Candidacy Rejected

Alabama's much-nationalized name got back into the front pages of Negro newspapers all over the country when the laws of the Democratic Party in Alabama made it necessary to reject the application of Attorney Arthur D. Shores to run for the Alabama House of Representatives from Jefferson County in the "Democratic Primaries."

In filing his application, Mr. Shores ran red ink through those restrictive words and specifically indicated his non-witness. All this was first overlooked by the chairman of the executive committee of the Alabama Democratic Committee. When the none-too-careful chairman learned about Applicant Shores being a Negro, he sat down and wrote him another letter in which both the entry fee and the "white only" were returned.

Under their laws, backed by a January resolution, Mr. Shores was not eligible for nomination and election on the "Democratic" ticket.

It is easy to question the laws upon which Mr. Shores was rejected, for they are in as much contradiction to genuine American law and ways as are the edicts of the Nazi Party. Yet, we, in that view, know that in Alabama our law, which can be changed to meet our own decent American political concepts, should never be compared with Nazi ruleship.

In time, we hope, that in Alabama we shall soon advance to the point where a better law will operate than that which, presently virtually limits public office to non-Negro candidates.

We are optimistic enough to believe that over the past ten years in Alabama a small amount of improvement has been made. Evidence of that is the spirit in which the would-be candidacy of Lawyer Shores has been generally received. Neither furore nor bitter feelings have resulted. And none will, if Jefferson County and Alabama are as high and decent as we place both in our estimations.

In our opinion, Mr. Shores should run for the Legislature. He could with legal justification, in our opinion, contend for his name being placed on the Democratic ballot. The Democratic Party uses both public funds and public property in conducting its activities and therefore is legal liable, we think, to opening up to all citizens without unlawful discriminations.

He could, it seems, run as an independent without incurring much, if any, ill will and indecent opposition. Yet, he would likely suffer insurmountable handicaps in doing this, in our thinking.

As a gesture of goodwill and good democracy, the Alabama Democratic Party, might remove its racial restrictions to allow Would-Be Candidate Shores to run on the Democratic tickets. This would be an imperishable contribution to democracy and a deadly blow to Axis propaganda at a time when total American cooperation is necessary.

A projected discussion of the candidacy opens a new area of thought. A Negro could be extremely helpful at this time in the Alabama Legislature. None know the Negro problems as does the Negro. Being a large part, nearly forty percent of the state population, the Negro is entitled, on that ground alone, to some one in government fundamentally and specifically interested in his welfare.

Paradoxical as are the ways of the South there is a possibility of anything happening. If there is to be a paradox at this time, let it be one that will stun the Axis rather than shame America. Let it be one that will weld us more firmly into a united people..... a people indivisible by racial discrimination. Let us in Alabama lead in democracy as we do in the alphabetical classification of the State. Let Alabama stand for all that is glorious in America.

—From Birmingham (Ala.) World.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Birmingham Begins Fight For Ballot

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — (ANP)— A campaign to gain the ballot for disfranchised groups was launched here this week by the Birmingham Branch of the N. A. A. C. P. headed by J. J. Green.

Leaders have carefully designed the campaign in a way to institute court action if that becomes necessary.

In Birmingham, provided one pays the poll tax, he can vote, but the difficulty is in getting the board of registrars to register applicants.

Refusal by the board to register applicants was upheld recently in the "Boswell case" by the Alabama Supreme court in a four-to-three decision.

Except in a few "liberal" cities, Alabama Negroes cannot vote in the primary which, unlike Texas, is tax-financed. Fear has been voiced that the system is likely to be cont[illegible]

The register-to-vote campaign opened June 24 and extends through July 23. Slogan is, "Winning democracy for the Alabama Negro is winning democracy for Alabama."

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

ALABAMA BLACKS 10-YEAR FIGHT TO VOTE IS REVIEWED

By EMORY O. JACKSON

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(ANP)— A review of the 10-year "planned" fight for the ballot in Birmingham reveal that every device used to increase Negro suffrage has been restrictive in nature and results.

Nearly every organization of any strength since 1932 has tried one plan of another to make it so Negro citizens could register to vote the same as any other person with basically the same qualifications. Those plans that have worked could not achieve the hope because of inherit limitations in all of them.

Six of those plans have been (1) the quota system; (2) prune off plan; (3) the get-white-man-to-vouch-for-you-strategy; (4) trickling; (5) going-back and going-back; (6) and court action.

Quota System

The "quota system" is a plan by which only a certain number of applicants will be registered to vote no matter how many with qualifications apply for their vote certificates. This has been a yardstick used by every board of registrars that has held that position in the past 12 years.

Prune Off Plan

Once registered in Alabama, and after one has paid his poll tax for 25 years, his name automatically remains on the vote list unless he is reported dead, or orders it transferred. Knowing this, an extra-official proposition was suggested that for every Negro's named pruned from the list another's would be placed on. That plan made no headway.

Vouch Method

The "vouch plan" is where one would get an influential white person to o. k. him and whisper a few kind words in his behalf to some one who stood in with the board, or members of the board itself.

Voting By Sneaking

"Trickling" is somewhat of a sneak system by which applicants would quietly go one by one and according to a schedule. This came about when some organization had advocated a mass rush on the office of registration.

Worry Technique

Some have felt that it was best to go back and go back until the board was worried down. Net effect of this was that a young man, say 21, going to the board would be refused registration five times. By now his poll tax would have accumulated to $4.50 or more. Price of voting now was so costly as to discourage him. Yet some paid as high as $37.-50, which is the lifetime poll tax.

More recently the NAACP has sought to break down all vote barriers through court action. The plan has succeeded in getting but few qualified to vote, and at prohibitive costs.

The Birmingham branch of the N. A. A. C. P. under J. J. Green has mapped out a three-point campaign in which it will solicit the support of the total Negro leadership in Birmingham. They plan to center a fight for the battle, first in conference; secondly through an appeal to public opinion and thirdly through legal action in the state and in the federal court.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Birmingham's NAACP To Open Fight For Vote

Courts May Be Called to Rule On White Primary

BIRMINGHAM — (ANP)—A campaign to gain the ballot for disfranchised groups was launched here this week by the Birmingham Branch of the NAACP, headed by J. J. Green.

Leaders have carefully designed the campaign in a way to institute court action if that becomes necessary.

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Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Dixon Against Dropping Poll Tax For Soldiers

SEP 6 1942

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—(ANP)—Gov. Frank M. "Little Leopard Spots" Dixon has sent telegrams to congress expressing opposition to the Brooks measure which would allow army and navy men to vote in federal elections without paying pall tax.

Gov. Dixon is the nephew of Thomas Dixon, the race-baiting novelist of several decades ago, whose books, "The Leopard Spots," and "The Clansman," served to strain Negro-whte relations in the south.

SEP 6 1942

In his telegrams sent to Alabama congressmen, Dixon said:

"The question of poll tax exemptions is one to be decided by the legislature of Alabama and not by congress. Intrusion by congress into state election laws means the ultimate control by the federal government of our local elections and should not be permitted."

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Alabama Would Avoid Vote Suit

SEP 19 1942

SEP 19 1942

BIRMINGHAM, (ANP)—Atty. Gen. Thomas L. (Buster) Lawson, prosecutor in the "Scottsboro boys" trials, has joined Solicitor R. E. McAdory of Jefferson county in a motion to dismiss the suit in which W. L. Patterson, railman, is suing three election officials for $5,000 damages for refusing to register him and asking that they be enjoined and restrained frofm further discrimination in registering Negroes.

SEP 19 1942

Patterson's suit was filed August 20 on behalf of himself and all other similarly situated Negroes.

Editor Hubert Baugh of the Alabama News Magazine in his editorial columns September 4 sought to reason a link between the suit and an attempt to abolish "social equality" in Alabama.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

SOME THOUGHTS ON OUR STATE CONSTITUTION

SEP 6 1942

The present generation is too far removed from the scene to appreciate what the framing and adoption of the Constitution of 1901 meant to Alabama. Its principles are now either taken for granted or from time to time subjected to attack by the unthinking. But the men who devised the Constitution rescued Alabama from a political situation that had grown intolerable and restored the self-respect of men who had too long been victims of the vicious and the ignorant and the corrupt in their government.

OCT 31 1942

Representative Sam Hobbs sent a stirring message to the Convention's surviving members who held their annual reunion in Montgomery this week, and in that message he gave some of the background of the fight the patriots of 1901 made to bring about honest government, the poll tax suffrage requirement being one of the means to that end.

We of this generation ought never to forget the obligation we owe to the makers of the Constitution of 1901. It is easy to sit back and say that in many respects it is a reactionary Constitution which puts too much emphasis on property rights and gives insufficient recognition of human rights. It is easy to say that the suffrage sections, so vital to the state's welfare served as a cloak to put in other things that should never have been there. It is easy to point to the difficulty the Constitution framers had in getting it ratified by the people even after it had been compiled. It is easy to recall the violent passions that were aroused for and against the completed Constitution during the famous fall ratification campaign of 1901. It is easy now to say that a better job could have been done without submitting to the compromises between reaction and liberalism now recognized as faults of our organic law.

OCT 31 1942

But those things are all governed by the times and conditions and circumstances under which they are done. What we now know is that there could have been no government at all without the suffrage provisions that made honest elections and honest expression of the people possible. We could have gone on from corruption to worse corruption until the whole system and all public confidence in public institutions would have broken down. Therefore the suffrage sections were the sine qua non. Upon them all else depended. It was recognition of this that made our fathers ratify this Constitution and hand it down to us to save us from what they had endured during reconstruction and reconstruction's nightmarish aftermath.

Few of the Constitution makers still live, but in honoring them Alabama honors herself.

OCT 31 1942

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Unregistered Soldiers Still Without Vote

Bankhead, Disturbed By Assault On Poll Tax, Checks Off One Peril

Negro Not Affected

Senior Senator Promises Finish Fight In Defense Of Southern Institutions

By ATTICUS MULLIN

Senator John H. Bankhead is disturbed by the Senate and House conferees' agreement upon the Federal bill allowing soldiers to vote in the next general election in Alabama regardless of poll tax payments and in subsequent primaries so long as the war lasts.

"I have three engagements to speak in Alabama this week on farm problems," said Senator Bankhead, "but I would cancel them and hasten to Washington, so grave is the situation about the soldier voting bill, except for the fact that I am advised that we can do nothing before next week and after Labor Day.

"It is my understanding," said Senator Bankhead, "that he bill before Congress and agreed to by the Senate and House conferees does not confer the right to vote upon negro soldiers, or even white ones, who have not registered under the Alabama law. My understanding is that the bill merely waives the payment of poll taxes as a provision of voting. That waiver, of course, is a deadly and dangerous thing and I shall fight it as hard as I ever fought anything in Congress."

Senator Bankhead, when asked directly whether or not he would join in filibustering against the bill said, "I would have to be completely informed as to the provisions of the bill after the Senate and House conferees report it. We have filibustered against anti-lynching bills designed to cripple Southern institutions and of course we will continue to fight against any bill that would weaken our Southern institutions. As to whether I would filibuster or not would depend upon the terms of the measure as presented to the Senate. And if there were terms that would break down our Southern traditions I would stand where our forefathers have always stood."

Senator Bankhead will visit South Alabama this week speaking in Greenville Friday and Ozark Saturday. His speeches, of course, will deal with agricultural matters but after he is informed of the details of the Senate-House conference report on soldier voting in Washington, he may say something about that too, in his addresses.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

AGENCY DEFENDS POLL TAX LOANS

JAN 3 - 1942

Region Director Issues Statement In Reply To Criticism

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Jan. 2—(AP)—The Farm Security Administration's policy of including in loans to white clients in Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina funds for the payment of poll taxes was defended Friday in a statement from E. S. Morgan, director for the Southeastern region.

Morgan's statement, which asserted FSA was empowered to lend money for "the payment of legal obligations of all kinds," followed criticism voiced by Probate Judge R. K. Greene, of Hale County, Alabama, who was state director for the Federal Resettlement Administration, predecessor of FSA.

Greene charged that the agency was "using federal tax money in an attempt to make voters of those now disqualified by our laws," and asked: "Is it their purpose to create a group of voters subservient to the orders of this bureau."

Poll tax payment is a prerequisite for voting in Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina, and Greene's criticism was contained in a letter printed on page one of The Greensboro (Ala.) Watchman.

Morgan answered:

"The Farm Security Administration has a job of rehabilitating people in every way. It believes that citizenship is the right, and that exercise of citizenship is the duty, of Americans. It seeks to help its borrowers raise their standard of living, increase their income, establish stronger ties to the land, the church, the school, and become members of their communities in every respect."

Apparently in connection with the statement that poll tax loans were made only to white clients, Morgan added: "The Farm Security Administration has not and never will do anything contrary to local customs and regulations."

Judge Greene's letter said result of the FSA practice "would be to nullify the election laws of the State of Alabama," and added that he had written protests to Senators Bankhead and Hill and Representatives Jarman and Hobbs, of Alabama.

JAN 3 - 1942

Morgan said his agency had "lent money for the repayment of delinquent taxes, property taxes as well as poll taxes," and that its debt adjustment program, "for example has made possible the repayment of more than $300,000 in delinquent state, country and local taxes in the four Southeastern states."

(Florida, also under Morgan, has no poll tax.)

"Money for payment of poll taxes is lent as one item of service," the FSA chief said, "and no particular emphasis is given to it . . . Our borrowers are no different in this respect from a man who goes to a bank and borrows money to pay his obligations which may, and probably do, include insurance and taxes. The FSA loan does not come out of "federal tax money," but is a loan which must be repaid by the borrower.

JAN 3 - 1942

"The loan is related to citizenship, not to politics. It does not carry the slightest suggestion that a man should vote one way or the other."

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

FSA Poll Tax Loans Engage Byrd's Interest

FEB 4 - 1942

Virginian Says Inquiry Will Be Made Into Reputed Practice

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—(AP)—Senator Byrd (D), Virginia, chairman of the joint congressional economy committee, announced today that an inquiry for payment of State poll taxes, a practice which FSA Administrator C. B. Baldwin acknowledged had been followed.

Byrd said his committee had received complaints from Alabama that the FSA required loan applicants to pay poll taxes out of the loan proceeds.

Not only loan applicants, but all members of applicants' families of voting age have been required to establish their eligibility as voters, Byrd said the committee was informed. He added that the complaints charged that the applicants were told that this was necessary "in order to retain the subsidies and benefits they have been getting."

Baldwin denied that FSA borrowers had been required to borrow funds to pay poll taxes under the threat of losing Federal benefits.

He asserted in a statement that in making supervised loans to low income families, taxes of all kinds were considered along with such items as farm expenditures and medical care.

"In this connection," he said, "if poll taxes are delinquent, they are considered on the same basis as any other type of tax, and if the borrower so desires, sufficient funds will be included in the loan to take care of this obligation. . . . . .No family, however, will be refused a FSA loan because of a refusal to pay poll taxes. Insofar as I have been able to determine, no family has been refused a loan for this reason."

FEB 4 - 1942

Byrd said the complaints came from Robert K. Greene, of Greensboro, Ala., and other Alabama residents and that they would be subpoenaed to appear before the committee. No hearing date was announced.

E. S. Morgan, regional director of FSA, in Montgomery, last night told The Advertiser that Administrator Baldwin "was exactly right in his reply to charges advanced by Senator Byrd.

"Since the administrator has, in a dignified manner, given a true statement regarding the allegations, additional remarks from me would hardly be necessary."

HALE FSA CHIEF IS 'READY' FOR POLL TAX PROBE

Birmingham Post

Morgan Says His Agency Seeks To Make Farmers Better Citizens

Birmingham, Ala.

By United Press.

MONTGOMERY, Feb. 4.—E. S. Morgan, regional director of the Farm Security Administration on charges that Federal funds had been used to pay poll taxes of persons residing in Hale County, Alabama.

FEB 4 - 1942

Informed of an announcement by Chairman Harry F. Byrd (D., Va.) of the joint congressional ecenomy committee that subpenas would be issued for the hearing, Mr. Morgan said it would not be necessary to subpena him. He said he was ready to report.

Although declining comment on the announcement, Mr. Morgan said "my earlier answers to Judge (Robert K.) Greene still stand.

"Sure we pay their poll taxes, just much as paying other taxes or helping them buy farm machinery," Mr. Morgan said. "Our principle is to make farmers substantial citizens. If they vote they are. We don't ask them to vote, or how they vote. Money for the payment of poll tax is lent as one item of service, but no particular emphasis is given to it."

FEB 4 - 1942

Byrd said Judge Greene, of Greensboro, Ala., and others had charged that local FSA officials refused to make Government loans unless members of the family receiving such loans paid their poll taxes. Judge Greene pointed out that the Alabama Constitution prohibits one person from paying the poll taxes of another.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Court Refuses Negro's Appeal In Suffrage Suit

JAN 30 1942

Also Invalidates Statute To Control Price Of Gasoline

The Alabama Supreme Court Thursday in a divided decision ruled against William Boswell, Jefferson County negro who had gone to court after the county board of registrars had refused to register him as a voter. Boswell charged that the county board of registrars conspired "to prevent negro residents of Jefferson County, including your petitioner, from being registered." The Jefferson Circuit Court ruled against his petition and was sustained by the Supreme Court in a 4 to 2 decision, the majority composed of Justices Thomas, Brown and Livingston and Chief Justice Gardner, with Justices Bouldin and Foster dissenting. The majority opinion held that Boswell "had not presented in proper and legal form" his appeal.

In another decision, the Supreme Court knocked out as unconstitutional that section of a legislative act prohibiting filling stations from selling at prices other than those posted on pumps and giving discounts or premiums to purchasers. Under the decision, filling stations must continue to post prices conspicuously but are not prohibited from selling at a different price or making inducements to obtain increased sales. This case also was from Jefferson County, on appeal of Alabama Independent Service Stations Association versus Holt McDowell, sheriff.

JAN 30 1942

The court held, in case of Robert B. Fore et al, versus Alabama State Bridge Corporation, appealed from Montgomery Circuit Court, that neither the State Bridge Corporation nor the State had authority to refund bonds issued by the corporation for the erection of toll bridges, all of which were freed several years ago under an agreement whereby the Highway Department pays a rental equivalent to bond requirements.

JAN 30 1942

Robert B. Fore and others challenged a proposal by the State to refund the bonds under a plan designed to lower interest rates.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

Minority Rule

Here in Alabama, we have minority rule. Of course, we elect our officials, send our representatives to the national Congress, elect our convention delegates, by a democratic method; but the fact remains that we have minority rule. Our record at the polls proves this; whatever our methods of governing, the facts are conclusive.

The United States Bureau of Census reports that our state has 1,555,369 potential voters. Our largest vote on record was in 1938 when 314,380 persons cast ballots in a single primary.

APR 8 1942

These figures can be broken down. It is possible to point out the large number of Negroes who do not vote, the numbers of so-called "poor whites" who do not vote, the numbers of women who do not avail themselves of their once hard-fought-for right. But these things are well known to all who are interested in the situation. The hard fact remains that we are ruled by a minority. Are we content to let it remain so?

Only a Few Can Vote

MAY 5 - 1942

Sixty-two thousand citizens of Jefferson County are qualified to vote in this election. If 50,000 of that number actually cast their ballots it will be a better than average turn-out. Yet, in this county we have a population of nearly half a million. Birmingham Post

Making allowances for minors and those who cannot qualify to participate in a Democratic primary there are still many thousands left who either are not interested in voting or who do not enjoy the full rights of American citizenship. Most of that number are barred from voting because of Alabama's vicious and undemocratic cumulative poll tax law.

The late Governor Graves pledged himself to work for reform of our poll tax law during his last administration. He made a gesture in that direction but that was all. MAY 5 - 1942

Governor Dixon also favored changing the law but he, too, let it go by the boards, sacrificing it perhaps to some other part of his legislative program.

Now, Mr. Sparks, who is conceded the governorship by most of the state's political observers, also promises poll tax reform. He can bring it about if he is willing to stand by his guns and insist on it just as he can bring about a more equitable distribution of representation in the Legislature which is so long overdue. He must have help from the Legislature of course. That is largely up to the voters. Their part is to elect men who will give more than lip service to such fundamentals of democracy.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Negroes Do Vote In Ala.

APR 28 1942

By EMORY O. JACKSON

WASHINGTON, D. C. —(SNS)— Among questions asked me here which are embarrassing, is that of Negroes voting, taking part in elections, or politics in Alabama. Even bringing up the reported utterances of Congressman Sam Hobbes on the Negro is not to be compared with it.

Negro voting in Alabama, in the South generally, is a self-answering question. Few whites vote, for that matter. A few Negroes vote. Surprisingly, Alabama, or Birmingham is far more liberal with the limited Negro vote than is true in some other Dixie states. Negroes do vote in Alabama, or some parts, but decimally. APR 28 1942

Naturally one tries to hold up for his state. But truth, unlike deception, knows no tricks. Well, I told the truth about it, because now is the time for truth-facing, and not for false-facing.

My own inquisitiveness soon turned the subject into another direction. I asked about the records of our Senators and Congressmen. The first name to pop up was that of the Congressman from Selma. They tried to see all Alabama in terms of him. Just why?

I did not get the records of these men, but I was given the impressions of their records by those who have watched them at work, or on issues affecting the welfare of all the people. APR 28 1942

Since being in Washington, I have visited the offices of our two Senators, and the office of Congressman Luther Patrick. All received me well, even warmly, and as I was, a fellow Alabamian. It's a good feeling to be well received.

Those who have observed the work, who seem to know his heart, the man's sympathies, his interest in human problems, rate Mr. Patrick highly. (None of this comes from the office of Mr. Patrick, or from Mr. Patrick either, for I never discussed the man in his office, and he himself was away from the city the day I went to his office.)

Some might rate, in their estimations, more able, for whatever that means, none more interested more sincerely concerned with the problems of all the people, big or little, so long as they are people, as Mr. Patrick.

Long before it was popular, I am told, he was for defending America by going after the enemy. He even went so far, they explain, to picket a picket thrown around the White House by the "Keep Out of War" idealists. He has favored a form of poll tax reform, and has most times been on the enlightened side of labor legislation.

His picketing drew the fire of critics, I am told, who felt that it was publicity a stunt. But it is explained that the picket actually helped the President out of an ugly jam. For he did not have to use measures to break it himself, which if used, could have resulted into something like when President Hoover sought to get rid of the bonus expedition.

My feeling is that never before as now do me need men in Congress who are enlightened on labor problems. Men so stupid as to be used to seize upon the war as an excuse for hamstringing labor are no less than axis aids. Men who are liberal on labor problems are usually enlightened on race and minority problems. I hope in this view that I am not mistaken.

Misinformed people around Washington have some awful views about Alabama. Few in Birmingham, would believe any one would be asked the "if it is true" questions that have been volleyed at me.

I come away from here convinced that Alabama needs to send a goodwill tour throughout the country. I am equally convinced the South must mend its ways, especially as concerns the treatment of Negroes.

Birmingham, Ala. News
May 11, 1942

Those Who Voted

Approximately 275,000 persons voted in last week's primary election which named Alabama's next governor. That is less than 10 per cent of the total population of the state, placed by the 1940 census at 2,832,961.

The number of persons of voting age in the state, still using 1940 census figures, is 1,555,369. Seventeen per cent of that number participated in the Democratic primary.

But, of course, not all voters in the state are Democratic. Assuming that the ratio of Democrats and Republicans which prevailed in the 1940 presidential election still existed, and that no Republicans took part in this party primary, there were potentially 1,322,000 Democrats of voting age who should have voted last Tuesday. But only 21 per cent of them did so.

However, it may be more realistic to eliminate Negroes from consideration as a voting class in this instance, although quite a few of those Negroes qualified to vote may count themselves Democrats. If the ratio of Negroes in the total population (34.7 per cent in Alabama) is carried over into those of voting age, there are in the state 1,032,000 white persons of voting age who are nominally Democratic. Only 26 per cent of them voted last Tuesday.

In other words, 26 per cent of the white Democrats of voting age in Alabama participated in the choice of their next governor. Only one out of four who should have voted did so.

This is the poorest record since the gubernatorial primary of 1930. In 1934 the first primary election brought out 305,178 votes and the runoff 292,449 votes. The 1938 primark marked up the largest vote ever cast in Alabama, with 314,380 going to the polls.

There are several possible explanations for this year's low vote. Absorption in the war was a factor. Scarcity of outstanding issues may have contributed. Absence of many young voters off in the army and navy had some weight. Some will blame Alabama's poll tax law, and while that is a constant factor in keeping down the size of the vote, it was no more influential at this time than at any other election in recent decades.

Whatever the cause, the effect of such disinterest in public elections is bound to be bad. We can hardly count ourselves a free people, exercising fully the rights and privileges of democracy, if so few of us participate in the government.

Liberties are lost through negligence more than through any other cause. The price of freedom is eternal exercise of that freedom. We can win every battle of this war and still lose at home the things for which we are fighting abroad.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Start Fight For Ballot In Alabama

JUN 27 1942

BIRMINGHAM, (ANP)—A campaign to gain the ballot for disfranchised groups was launched here this week by the Birmingham branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, headed by J. J. Green. Leaders have carefully designed the campaign in a way to institute court action if that becomes necessary.

In Birmingham, provided one pays the poll tax, he can vote, but the difficulty is in getting the board of registrars to register applicants.

Refusal by the board to register applicants was upheld recently in the "Boswell case" by the Alabama Supreme court in a four-to-three decision.

Except in a few "liberal" cities, Alabama Negroes cannot vote in the primary which, unlike Texas, is tax-financed. Fear has been voiced that the system is likely to be contested. JUN 27 1942

The register-to-vote campaign opened June 24 and extends through July 23. Slogan is, "Winning democracy for the Alabama Negro is winning democracy fir Alabama."

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

FSA to Aid Farmers Pay Poll Tax to Vote

JAN 7 - 1942

(Special to the Daily Worker)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Jan. 6.—Vigorous defense of the policy of lending money to small farmers and tenants to pay poll taxes was voiced here today by E. S. Morgan, regional director of Farm Security Administration. Morgan said that clients who want to pay back poll taxes in order to vote can secure this money from FSA. The money is added to their loans.

Morgan's statement was in answer to a reactionary county judge who charged that "FSA is using Federal tax money in an attempt to make voters of those now disqualified by our laws."

He said "the FSA has a job of rehabilitating people in every way. It believes that citizenship is a right and the exercise of it is a duty of every American."

"FSA seeks to help its borrowers raise their standard of living, increase their income, establish stronger ties to the land, the church, the school and become members of the community in every respect."

While this act of FSA has the good feature of bringing new thousands of voters to the polls in the three states involved, Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina, it excludes any loans to Negro people in these states.

JAN 7 - 1942

Negro people now getting loans from FSA who are not permitted to register as voters in rural counties are also discriminated against by not receiving poll tax loans.

The FSA representatives are checking poll tax records in county court houses throughout these poll tax states.

POLL TAX WAR BREAKS ON FSA

JAN 8 - 1942

Hale Judge Charges Farm Agency With Political Skullduggery

Probate Judge R. K. Greene, of Hale County, today apparently was organizing a statewide battle against the Farm Security Administration's practice of lending clients money to pay pol ltaxes.

He wrote to E. S. Morgan, regional director of the FSA, charging FSA with discrimination against Negro voters, challenged the FSA's definition of a voting franchise, and accused it of "throwing its hat in the Courthouse door" by paying poll taxes of its clients.

In an open letter to "The Greensboro Watch," the judge asked if their purpose was not "to create a group of voters subverient to the orders of this Government bureau," adding:

JAN 8 - 1942

"If so, then their plan must be to use them as a pressure group on congressmen and senators to continue an increase in appropriations for this bureau."

Mail Spreads Charges

Today the mail brought scores of state officials a letter containing a copy of The Watchman's front page headlining the poll tax story; a copy of Judge Greene's letter to Mr. Morgan; and a pink slip citing the poll tax laws of Alabama that "any persons who shall pay the poll tax of another, or advance him money for that purpose in order to influence his vote, shall be guilty of bribery, and upon conviction, shall be imprisoned in the penitentiary for not less than one nor more than five years."

Terrell F. Cannon, FSA supervsior for Hale County, said he had been instructed to lend money to those white clients who desire to pay their pol ltaxes or other taxes, as well as back poll taxes of wives and other members of a client's family. In former years clients have been required to pay taxes out of crop income.

JAN 8 - 1942

Morgan Explains

In a recent statement to the press, Director Morgan had explained the poll tax loans with the statement they were made by the organization "in the belief that citizenship is the right, and exercise of that citizenship is the duty of Americans," and the FSA was endeavoring to make good citizens out of its clients.

Greene attacked the Morgan statement with the assertion the franchise "is not recognized as a right by the Constitution" and said it "is a privilege conferred . . . on persons meeting prescribed qualications."

Regarding the "loan" phase of transactions, Judge Greene said he still contended "it is simon-pure Federal tax money which you propose to use, up to $36 per voter."

The Greene-FSA feud started when the probate judge entered his office last week to find a representative of the Farm Security Administration checking the Hale County poll tax records. He telephoned other judges in the state and discovered it was being done generally, and the protest followed.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

WM. BOSEWELL CASE REMAINS UNCHALLENGED

State Tribunal Fails To Censure Denial Of Registry Rights

FEB 21 1942

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — (ANP)—A demurrer decision made by the Jefferson county circuit court, which denied William Boswell of Birmingham an appeal from the refusal of the Jefferson county board of registrars to register him, was upheld by the Alabama supreme court here last Thursday.

A split opinion was handed down, with two judges dissenting, one giving a "special" concurring opinion, and one who did not sit.

Two concurred with the writer of the majority opinion, while the dissenters wrote no minority decision.

Written by Justice Thomas and concurred in by Justices Brown and Livingston, and majority opinion held that "the burden is on the one who would attack such action of such a board and this should be done by proper pleading and evidence. This burden is no less strong by reason of the fact that the question for decision is whether the individual should vote or should work.

"The rights as an elector to hold office are political privileges conferred by statutes and do not rise higher in their enforcement than the natural rights of our citizens Therefore, the writer sees no good reason, under the law, why the review of the order of the instant administrative board should not be presented in proper and legal form. Less than this is an injustice to the rulings of such administrative boards, the boards of registrars of the several counties of this state. It follows that the judgment of the trial court is affirmed," said the opinion.

The special concurrence of Chief Justice Gardner stated that nothing in the constitution or statute required the formality of pleading in the petition for an appeal, but that the petition should state specifically that "petitioner is entitled to be registered as a voter" and that application duly made to the board of registrars was denied.

According to his opinion, the petitioner stated he was already an elector and that would make it appear that double registration was sought.

The state supreme court upheld the attorney general's argument that "initial pleading failed to show that petitioner was not already a registered elector of Jefferson county" and "also fails to show, except by conclusions, that a proper application was made to the board of registrars."

Dissenting votes were cast by Justices Boulder and Foster, while Justice Knight did not sit.

In the meantime, the Birmingham branch N.A.A.C.P. has promised to assist in carrying the case to the U. S. Supreme Court. Presenting the case to the court for the plaintiff was Atty. Arthur D. Shores, a recent electee to the legal staff of the N.A.A.C.P.

FEB 21 1942

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

Alabama County Registrars Backed By Supreme Court

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Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

THE FSA AND POLL TAXES

Under the "furnishing merchant" system which developed in Alabama after Reconstruction, it became customary for farmers who had no other source of credit to borrow money in January with which to "make a crop."

"Making a crop" expenses consisted usually of all ordinary expenses of the family for a year.

JAN 4 - 1942

When cotton fell to six cents a pound in 1930—and stayed there until it dropped to five—the low income farmers of the South were deseprate. The furnishing merchant system collapsed.

Out of this situation developed the Farm Security Administration. The law under which it operates specifies that farmers may borrow from it only if they have no other source of credit.

Because these farm families usually have no funds whatsoever—and definitely must have no other source of credit — the FSA lends them money in January to cover their expenses until harvest season. The goal of the FSA is to "rehabilitate" these families—that is, to help them reach a status under which they do have credit, and to aid them in becoming citizens in the American sense of the word.

JAN 4 - 1942

The FSA loans are not "gifts." The idea is not to keep the families on relief, but to help them to become assets to the community in every sence of the word.

This is the season for FSA annual loans. These loans are made for specific purposes. The agency does not lend money to a family for the purpose of buying a mule, and then permit the loan to be used for buying a second-hand automobile. Therefore the loans are made on an itemized basis.

It is not unusual for the agency to make a family loan which includes:

A set of false teeth for the mother;

A specified contribution for the church;

A subscription to a newspaper or farm magazine;

JAN 4 - 1942

A new dress for the youngest daughter.

In Greensboro a sensation has been created by the complaint of the Probate Judge that the Farm Security Administration is lending money to be used for paying poll taxes. Hamner Cobb, editor of The Greensboro Watchman, sees a deep-dyed plot involved. He gets the race issue, the Northern issue, the radical issue, the poll tax issue, war with Japan, and various and sundry other issues of the moment mixed up with his outburst on this plot.

The FSA, of course, is not the only government agency which has loaned money to pay taxes. The Reconstruction Finance Corporation has loaned money to thousands of corporations which owe back taxes. The Home Owners Loan Corporation lends money regularly to home owners to pay taxes. Farmers borrow money from the Commodity Loans Corporation on farm produce, and use part of the proceeds to pay taxes.

If, as part of a farm family loan, the FSA lends money which is used to pay poll taxes on the grounds that payment of poll taxes is involved in becoming a citizen, there is no issue except a bogus one. If, on the other hand, the FSA is engaged in a campaign to lend money to clients to pay poll taxes for a particular political purpose, there is an issue. Until the latter point is proved there can be no fair judgment of the matter.

There is certainly no occasion for alarm such as that expressed by Probate Judge Greene and Mr. Cobb of The Greensboro Watchman. Mr. Cobb's alarums are long and loud. He has become alarmed about everything except the basic problems of the South which revolve around widespread poverty in the midst of rich potential resources. He is frightened by every change except that of slow starvation.

As for any political strength which the FSA now has, or might have in Alabama, there is no occasion for alarm either. The agency has not had any political power. It has no organized support. There has been no organization in Alabama, farm or otherwise, which has ever aided it. Its personnel, by and large, has been too preoccupied with its tremendous job to take an interest in politics. If anything, it has been politically inept. It has depended on a few people who understand its program to aid it in gaining renewals of appropriations, and defense from those who would destroy it. If the FSA has been engaged in politics, it is an unfortunate mistake—not for the organization, for no government agency as such is of any moment—but for the voiceless families whose hopes depend upon it.

Negro Sues for Vote

"Daily" News, [illegible]

Special Correspondence

AUG 25 1942

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Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Leaders Ready To Push Fight

FEB 16 1942

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Montgomery, Ala.

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Montgomery Ala. Advertiser
February 25, 1942

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Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Constitution's Framers Will Gather Here

OCT 29 1942

Poll Tax They Set Up In 1901 Again To Claim Their Attention

Alabama history of 40 years ago will be reviewed today, when surviving members of the constitutional convention of 1901 meet in reunion at the Jefferson Davis Hotel. Of the original 155 men who made Alabama history at the turn of the century, framing the constitution which, with amendments, is still the fundamental law of the State, 24 "known survivors" are listed. Besides convention members there are 13 surviving officers and employes of the convention many of whom are expected to attend.

The constitution-framers of 1901 incorporated in it the poll-tax feature now under fire of reformers. It was regarded as significant of the temper of survivors that the two principal speakers at today's session will have the poll tax as their theme.

The reunion will be called to order at 11 a.m. by J. W. O'Neill of Birmingham, president of the survivors' organization. Welcome addresses will be delivered by Mayor Cyrus B. Brown by Chief Justice Lucien D. Gardner, of the Supreme Court on behalf of the judiciary and by Gov. Dixon's legal adviser, J. M. Bonner, representing the executive. Guests to be introduced will include members of the Alabama Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, U. S. Circuit Judge Leon McCord and U. S. District Judge C. B. Kennamer.

OCT 29 1942

Circuit Judge Walter B. Jones of Montgomery, and Judge Watkins Vaughn of Selma, will speak on "Alabama's Poll Tax." Following their addresses will come the "in memoriam" tribute to departed members, by Erle Pettus.

At 1 p.m. members and guests will be guests of President O'Neill at a luncheon, at which Secretary Frank N. Julian will act as toastmaster.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
July 30, 1942

McConico in Arkansas

In Little Rock Arkansas, last Tuesday, J. H. McConico, secretary of a negro Democratic association, applied to vote in a Democratic primary and was refused the privilege, told that it was for white voters only. Have white persons the lawful right to hold a nominating primary and exclude negroes from it? They have. Were twenty-five white Democrats, men and women, to meet in the living room of the house of Johnsmith, white man, to hold a caucus, to talk politics, to name a candidate for congress, and McConico were to knock at Johnsmith's door seeking admittance because he was a Democrat and the caucus was to nominate a candidate, would Johnsmith and his friends be obligated to admit him? The answer is no. If Johnsmith were compelled to admit him and were to serve a supper to his associates, twenty-four white men and women, during the caucus, would he be compelled to allow McConico also to sit at his table and partake? The News and Courier is sure that twenty-five negroes, men and women, may lawfully hold a Democratic, or Republican caucus, to nominate a man for congress and to exclude white persons from it. This being true as to the political caucus in the home of a negro, or of Johnsmith, it is equally certain that the white people of Arkansas have the lawful right to hold the same day in halls or stores at 1,500 precincts caucuses which they call primaries and to nominate candidates by ballots. To this time, one has heard no plausible argument that any parcel or group of persons are without the lawful right to meet and nominate candidates to be voted for in a general election at which persons of all races who are qualified may vote. In an election arranged by law, to vote is the right of a qualifed citizen. In a caucus, convention or primary, to vote is a privilege, not a right.

Memphis, Tenn., Com'rcial Appeal
August 2, 1942

Arkansas Negroes Expected To Carry Fight For Right To Vote In Primaries For Federal Offices To Highest Court

Prodded By Outside Interests, Is Contention About State Capital

By EUGENE RUTLAND

LITTLE ROCK, Aug. 1.—On a technicality may hang the answer to the question, "Will negro Democrats in Arkansas be allowed to vote in Democratic primaries?"

The technicality is this—the Democratic primaries are the real elections in Arkansas, and the November elections count for little because other political parties seldom have sufficient strength to defeat the nominating vote given Democratic candidates in the general election in November.

Speculation was rampant this week in judicial and political circles on the outcome of the question, which is expected to be presented to the United States Supreme Court for final decision. There was little doubt here that Dr. J. M. Robinson, president of the Arkansas negro Democratic Association, would take the case to the Supreme Court.

Leaders here are also certain that the move to give negroes the right to vote in Democratic primaries is a deliberate, selfish move on the part of outside interests to break up the Democratic South. Louisiana has been the testing ground on one phase of the election question. Arkansas is certain to be the next, it was said.

Judiciary Expects Appeal

Judicial circles were of the opinion that the negroes will take their case to Federal Courts because they will contend that they were refused the right to vote in a Federal election.

The negroes have taken a similar case to the state courts, except no federal elections laws applied. In those cases they lost out—even on one decision in the United States Supreme Court. But the negroes this time, with the aid of New York attorneys, will be seeking final approval on another question.

One legal authority said that the negroes may expect a favorable decision on participation in elections governing Federal offices—but that the United States Supreme Court cannot dictate the policies of state elections without infringing on the rights of the State Constitution. In other words, the negroes may be expected to win the right to participate in Democratic primaries for Federal offices, but not for State offices.

May Separate Elections

Should that be the final decision, some authorities indicated that the State elections would be held separately. Elections for State and Federal offices are held jointly now.

The point is this—political and social minded leaders outside the South are determined to make it possible for negroes to vote in all elections. To do that they will continue their efforts to eliminate payment of poll taxes as a qualifying factor to vote.

Southern Democrats are expected to put up a hard fight, but many judicial and political observers believe the cards are stacked against them in this age of social and economic change.

There is one thing that Brooks Hays, Democratic nominee in the Fifth Congressional District, will not have to listen to any more. It's the jokes that were pulled on him in connection with his several unsuccessful campaigns. He had always finished second and he was forever being kidded about being a second placer—regardless of how many were in a race.

Those days are over. He made the grade Tuesday with a substantial majority, sufficient to avoid a run-off. Some months ago when he resigned as assistant rehabilitation director of the Farm Security Administration, he said, "This is the time." It was. It marks the beginning of a dream that began years ago when he was a student in a law school in Washington, and when he spent some of his leisure hours in the galleries of the House and Senate.

He's going up there in January to sit in one of the seats he gazed at when he was a law student there. A good title for his sendoff might be: "Sunday School Teacher Goes to Congress." He teaches one of the largest men's Bible classes in Little Rock, and has for many years.

Capitol Briefs

Governor Adkins, who won the Democratic gubernatorial nomination without making a campaign speech, figures that a governor will lose about 40,000 votes regardless. Dr. Fred Keller polled slightly over 40,000 late returns indicated.

Arkansas At Least Takes It Calmly

"The Courier-Journal"

JUL 31 1942

Negroes were not allowed to vote in the Democratic primaries in Arkansas this week. The party rules restrict those eligible to "qualified white electors." The rules seem contrary to the Constitution as interpreted by the Supreme Court in its important decision last year. But, judging by *The Arkansas Gazette's* news account, the few Negroes who put in appearances at the polls to ask for ballots did so without bluster and were turned away without rancor. And the question seems headed toward settlement in the courts.

An encouraging thing was that attempts to raise a race issue seem to have been few among the candidates, and also ineffective. In the Fifth District a candidate for Congress, Lieutenant Governor Bob Bailey, dragged the question in and got nowhere. He recalled to the voters that Brooks Hays, who also was a candidate, participated in the Southern Conference for Human Welfare at Birmingham in November, 1938. Mr. Bailey made much of the fact that the conference adopted a resolution condemning Jim Crow laws in the South. Mr. Hays said he had nothing to do with the resolution, was not present when it was adopted, but he criticized his opponent severely for bringing up such a thing "at a time when civic groups and unselfish citizens are bending every effort to keep down friction." Mr. Hays handily defeated Mr. Bailey and two other candidates.

JUL 31 1942

The Governor's race was one-sided, Governor Adkins winning renomination with little trouble. One unsuccessful candidate in this contest alleged in the campaign that the Governor had concealed his position on the question of Negro voting in the primary, but "I will not conceal my own attitude. I am a Southern Democrat. I am opposed to permitting Negroes to vote in our primary." However, this seems not to have stirred up the kind of argument it was meant to stir up.

New York, N.Y.

Of course, it cannot be doubted that probably a majority of white Democrats in Arkansas would agree with the candidate just quoted on the question of Negro voting. Where the poll tax is retained, no deep sensitivity about the suffrage may be expected. Nevertheless, it is hopeful that the effort of the Negroes to assert the right seems to have been taken calmly, and that Mr. Hays had no trouble preventing the voters of his district from responding to incendiarism.

If the comparatively few privileged Arkansans who, under the poll tax, enjoy the ballot could be rid of their basic fear, which is that Negroes would vote *en bloc*, they might be quite reasonable. The fact is that Negroes divide on public questions just as other people do. They vote all the same way only when the hand of the ruling party is raised vindictively against them as it was in Louisville in Memphis where white and black troop when the white people set the banner of old along contentedly under the Boss Crump.

Asheville N. C. Citizen
July 29, 1942

NEGROES DENIED BALLOTS IN ARK. PRIMARY VOTING

Democratic Election Passes With No Outbreaks

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., July 28. (AP) Would-be negro voters were turned away from the polls in three Arkansas cities today, but a few long-time negro residents of one community voted as usual in the state's Democratic preferential primary.

Apparently preparing for a legal test, Dr. J. M. Robinson, president of the Arkansas Negro Democratic association which has sponsored the voting efforts of negroes, said a report would be sent to Thurgood Marshall of New York city, attorney for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Election officials at Little Rock, Pine Bluff and Conway denied negroes the privilege of voting, explaining that the election was for white people only. The state's party rules restrict membership to "qualified white electors."

At Camden in South Arkansas, however, a few negroes who were described as residents who had been permitted to participate in primary elections for many years, voted as usual.

There was no reported trouble. The negro association claims a membership of 10,000. Robinson had advised his followers to seek a ballot, but if it were refused to "bow politely and leave without ado." Robinson said Attorney Marshall already had been in conference with department of justice officials.

The first reported test came in Little Rock when J. H. McConico, 58, secretary of the association, was stopped at the door of a voting booth by a bailiff who told him, "This election is for white electors only." McConico walked quietly away. He told reporters his vote in Arkansas primaries had been unchallenged since 1926. Before then, he said he had voted the Republican ticket.

Negroes were instructed by Robinson to attempt to vote only for federal office candidates. The negro association pointed out a 1941 supreme court decision which held that primary elections and nominating conventions were subject to federal regulation insofar as they applied to candidates for federal offices.

At stake in the primary were nominations for U. S. senators, two congressmen, governor, land commissioner and a supreme court justice.

Arkansas Vote Case Goes To Supreme Court

High Tribunal To Be Queried On Technicalities

LITTLE ROCK —(ANP)--There was little doubt here this week that Dr. J. M. Robinson, president of the Negro Democratic association, would take the question of whether or not Negroes can vote in Democratic primaries to the United States Supreme court for final decision.

The answer to the question is expected to rest upon two technicalities: one, since the Democratic primaries are the real elections in Arkansas can the Negro be denied the right to vote on candidates for nomination; and two, can Negroes be prevented from participation in elections for federal offices.

OPINION BARED

Consensus is that the high court will rule favorably on the question of participation by Negroes in federal elections, but that it will hand down an unfavorable decision on the question of state elections.

For the court to rule on state elections, it was pointed out would be tantamount to an infringement on the rights of the state constitution, which under the law is illegal.

Should Negroes be given a favorably decision the present practice of holding joint elections for federal and state offices would end. State elections would be held separately.

SOUTH IS BITTER

Political observres declare the south is bitter over efforts of "outside political and social-minded leaders" to make it possible for Negroes to vote in all elections. While the southern democrats are expected to wage a hard battle, it has been predicted they will lose in this dynamic age of social and economic change.

Judicial circles are asserted to be convinced that the move to secure the vote for Negroes in Arkansas with the aid of New York lawyers "is a deliberate, selfish move on the part of outside interests to break up the Democratic south."

Similar vote test cases have been tried in state courts, but were lost. Results of the recent primary reveal that Brooks Hays, former assistant director of the Farm Security administration, has been a successful candidate for nomination from the fifth congressional district.

During the campaign Hays was castigated by his opponents for being present at the 1939 convention of the Human Welfare association at which an anti-jim crow resolution was passed. Hays denied he was present when the action took place.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

TO SEEK HIGH COURT RULING IN VOTE CASE

Arkansas Democrats Plan Test Case On Negro Suffrage Rights

—BULLETIN—

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—Dr. J. M. Robinson, president of the Negro Democratic Association which tried unsuccessfully to register for the Democratic preferential primary August 4 said late Thursday that no attempt would be made by his members to vote in the regular primary, August 11.

LITTLE ROCK. — (ANP)— There was little doubt here this week that Dr. J. H. Robinson, president of the Negro Democratic association, would take the question of the right of Negroes to vote in Democratic primaries to the United States Supreme court for final decision.

The answer to the question is expected to rest upon two technicalities: one, since the Democratic primaries are the real elections in Arkansas can the Negro be denied the right to vote on candidates for nomination; and two, can Negroes be prevented from participation in election for federal offices.

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Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

JIM CROW AT THE POLLS.

Negroes who presented themselves at the polls in Arkansas to vote in the state's Democratic preferential primary were turned away because the state's party rules restrict membership to "white electors only." The rebuff at the polls in southern states is nothing new. Usually the Negroes do not even attempt to assert a right to the ballot. Perhaps this time, with so much talk of the four freedoms in the air, they felt that things would be different.

The southern states under the leadership of the first Republican President achieved emancipation of the Negro, and he is not denied the ballot in them. Good sense counsels him to belong to the Republican party that traditionally stands for his rights as a citizen, rather than to the Democratic party that perpetuates his bondage, and denies him even the liberty of coöperating in his own oppression.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Race Issue Will Be Raised Today In Arkansas Primary

LITTLE ROCK, ARK., July 27.—(AP)—The negro question, raised both by members of that race and a congressional candidate, tonight overshadowed other issues in tomorrow's biennial Statewide Democratic preferential primary election.

The negroes themselves, working through their Arkansas Negro Democratic Association, planned to try to vote in Little Rock, Pine Bluff and Forrest City despite a party regulation restricting primary voting privileges to "qualified white electors."

In the Fifth District, Lieut. Gov. Bob Bailey, of Russellville, through large newspaper advertisements, criticized Brooks Hays, former Farm Security Administration official, for participation in the 1938 Birmingham, Ala., convention of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare at which an anti-Jim Crow law resolution was adopted.

Hays and Bailey are rivals for the congressional seat being vacated by Dave Terry, Little Rock, one of four candidates for U. S. senator. Hays, in rebuttal, denied he was present the day the resolution was adopted and criticized Bailey for raising the racial issue "at a time when civic groups and unselfish citizens are bending every effort to keep down friction."

Both negro leaders and white authorities said they anticipated no trouble. Dr. J. M. Robinson, ANDA president, cautioned his followers to "bow politely and leave without ado" if they were refused a ballot. Police Chief J. A. Pitcock said he did not expect any disturbance but instructed his patrolmen to "keep a close watch around the polls."

At stake tomorrow are nominations for senator, Third and Fifth District Congress, governor, land commissioner and Supreme Court justice. The polls open at 1 a.m. (central wartime) and close at 6:30 p.m.

Secretary June P. Wooten, of the Pulaski County (Little Rock) central committee, said negroes had never voted in an Arkansas primary since the elections were started in 1907. A small number of negroes normally vote in all general elections and in 1870 were urged to vote by the Democratic leaders in an effort to unseat the carpetbag regime.

Wooten said the question of negro voting in primaries was settled by a U. S. Supreme Court decision in 1930 that half the Arkansas party, like a lodge or fraternity, had a right to restrict its membership.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

VOTERS IN ARKANSAS GO TO POLLS TUESDAY

One Of Quietest Elections In Years Expected Unless Negroes Try To Ballot

By EUGENE RUTLAND
From The Commercial Appeal
Little Rock Bureau

LITTLE ROCK, July 25.—Tuesday's the day—and it's expected to be the quietest Democratic primary election in years, unless it is marred by efforts of negro Democrats to participate in the voting.

Officials of the State Central Committee said that all election officials have been appointed and that they expected a small vote to be cast. Estimates ran from 140,000 to 200,000, with most estimates being around 175,000.

Adkins Wants Big Vote

Governor Adkins, who has conducted no formal campaign, has joined civic leaders in urging the citizens to go to the polls and exercise their right to vote. He wants a large vote to be cast but expects approximately 175,000, which is far below the 265,000 cast in the last election.

While there has been little excitement in any of the campaigns, with the exception of the senatorial contests, many close races are expected in the counties, which may result in a larger vote than is anticipated.

Deputy State Auditor Bus Friday reported that approximately 360,000 persons in the state have paid their poll taxes and are eligible to vote. To this must be added the several thousand new voters. Approximately 50,000 men are in the armed forces however and political observers estimated that only a few thousand would use the absentee ballots.

Receipts Issued By Counties

Poll tax receipts issued in 1941 by counties are:

Arkansas, 4600; Ashley, 4648; Baxter, 2306; Benton, 7537; Boone, 4944; Bradley, 3637; Calhoun, 2749; Carroll, 3881; Chicot, 3241; Clark, 4588; Clay, 4792; Cleburne, 2827; Cleveland, 2604; Columbia, 4290; Conway, 4075; Craighead, 8542; Crawford, 4517; Crittenden, 5207; Cross, 4567.

Dallas, 2983; Desha, 4085; Drew, 2893; Faulkner, 6007; Franklin, 3700; Fulton, 2157; Garland, 11,081; Grant, 2913; Greene, 5490; Hempstead, 5439; Hot Spring, 4623; Howard, 3963; Independence, 5644; Izard, 2[illegible]; Jackson, 4678; Jefferson, 80[illegible]; Johnson, 3863.

Lafayette, 3081; Lawrence, 5834; Lee, 2744; Lincoln, 2442; Little River, 2284; Logan, 5265; Lonoke, 5262; Madison, 2691; Marion, 2181; Miller, 5519; Mississippi, 11,509; Monroe, 3281; Montgomery, 2235; Nevada, 3345; Newton, 2352; Ouachita, 5318.

Perry, 2114; Phillips, 6707; Pike, 2316; Poinsett, 8064; Polk, 2868; Pope Pope, 5736; Prairie, 2965; Pulaski, 28,171; Randolph, 4245; Saline, 4217; Scott, 2396; Searcy, 2436; Sebastian, 10,651; Sevier, 2531; Sharp, 3381; St. Francis, 4627; Stone, 2209; Union, 8172; Van Buren, 2308; Washington, 7849; White, 10,002; Woodruff, 3391; Yell, 4222.

Voters Under New Laws

For the first time Arkansas will be voting for Federal office seekers under the new election laws, which make it a criminal offense to tamper with an election for a Federal office. Senatorial and congressional offices are involved.

Here's the way the ballot shapes up for the congressional, state and district elections:

United States Senate—Representative Clyde T. Ellis, John L. McClellan, Atty. Gen. Jack Holt and Representative David D. Terry.

House of Representatives—First District—E. C. (Took) Gathings.

Second District—Wilbur D. Mills and O. B. Robbins.

Third District—Virgil D. Willis, Judge Karl Greenhaw and J. W. (Bill) Fulbright.

Fourth District—Fadjo Cravens.

Fifth District—Lieut. Gov. Bob Bailey, A. L. Rotenberry, Brooks Hays and Oscar H. Winn.

Sixth District—W. F. Norrell.

Seventh District—Oren Harris.

For Governor—Homer M. Adkins, Dr. Fred Keller, Bill Neill and Vernon Heath.

Lieutenant Governor—J. L. (Beck) Shaver.

Attorney General—Guy E. Williams and Duval D. Purkins.

Secretary of State—C. G. (Crip) Hall.

State Treasurer—Earl Page.

State Auditor—J. Oscar Humphrey and Ed Bethune.

Land Commissioner — Claude Rankin, E. D. Woodburn, Ira J. Golden, John H. Page and Parmer Taylor.

Associate Justice Arkansas Supreme Court—

To succeed T. M. Mehaffy—Charles Mehaffy, Ed F. McFaddin and Leffel Gentry.

To succeed T. H. Humphries—Robert A. Leflar and R. W. Robins.

To succeed Karl Greenhaw—Ben E. Carter and Arthur L. Adams.

State Senators—First District—No election.

Second District—John W. Cloer and J. S. Jameson.

Third District—Jim Snoddy.

Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Districts—No election.

Seventh District—Roy W. Milum.

Eighth District—No election.

Ninth District—Dr. F. C. Crow and Tom Kidd.

Tenth and 11th Districts—No, election.

Twelfth District—Henry B. Hardy, Steve Combs and Russell C. Roberts.

Thirteenth District—Edward B. Dillon, Ellis M. Fagan, Augustus C. Remmel and E. E. Raines.

Fourteenth District — Ernest Maner and O. H. Sumpter.

Fifteenth through 19th Districts—No election.

Twentieth District—O. E. Jones, Claude M. Erwin and Claude C. Walbert.

Twenty-first District—No election.

Twenty-second District—W. K. Oldham Jr., W. E. (Buck) Fletcher, L. E. Tedford, Dr. E. H. Callahan and Roy C. Turner.

Twenty-third District—Hendrix Rowell

Twenty-fourth through 26th Districts—No election.

Twenty-seventh District—Jewell W. Powell, Ovid T. Switzer and Leonard T. Barnes.

Twenty-eighth District—Ira C. Langley, E. G. Ward and W. O. Irby.

Twenty-ninth District — Julian James and Herbert W. Parker.

Thirtieth District—L. H. Autry and B. Frank Williams.

Thirty-first District—No election.

Thirty-second District—Donald L. Lawrie and R. H. Ray.

Thirty-third District—No election.

Thirty-fourth District—John I. Moore.

Circuit Court judges will be chosen also. In all but the Second, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth and 13th Districts, the candidates have no opposition.

Chancellor candidates are without opposition in all but the Second, Eighth and 12th Districts. Candidates for prosecuting attorney are without opposition in nine of the 18 districts.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

NEGROES TO TRY TO CAST VOTE IN ARKANSAS TODAY

Racial Issue Raised in Congress Race.

Little Rock, Ark., July 27 (AP).—Racial issues, raised both by a Negro organization and a congressional candidate, overshadow other issues in tomorrow's biennial statewide Democratic preferential primary election.

Negroes, working thru their Arkansas Negro Democratic association, planned to try to vote in Little Rock, Pine Bluff, and Forrest City despite a party regulation restricting primary voting privileges to "qualified white electors."

Fight for Congress.

In the fifth [central] district, Lieut. Gov. Bob Bailey of Russellville, thru large newspaper advertisments, criticized Brooks Hays, former Farm Security administration official, for participation in the 193[illegible] Birmingham, Ala., convention of the southern conference for human welfare at which anti-Jim Crow law resolution was adopted.

Hays and Bailey are rivals for the congressional seat being vacated by Dave Terry, Little Rock, one of four candidates for U. S. senator. Hays denied he was present the day the resolution was adopted and criticized Bailey for raising the racial issue "at a time when civic groups and unselfish citizens are bending every effort to keep down friction."

Expect No Trouble.

Negro leaders and white authorities said they anticipated no trouble. Dr. J. M. Robinson, president of the Negro association, instructed Negroes to vote only for candidates for U. S. senator and congressmen and to "bow politely and leave without ado" if they were refused a ballot. Police Chief J. A. Pitcock instructed Little Rock patrolmen to "keep a close watch around the polls."

At stake tomorrow are nominations for senator, third and fifth district congress seats, governor, land commissioner, and supreme court justice.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

Arkansas Election Expected To Draw Light Vote Today

Threat Of Negro Participation Causes Atmosphere Of Anxiety

CANDIDATES PUT FINAL TOUCHES ON CAMPAIGNS

Governor Adkins Urges Citizens To Ballot

By EUGENE RUTLAND
From The Commercial Appeal
Little Rock Bureau

LITTLE ROCK, July 27.—An atmosphere of anxiety, caused by the closeness of the political races and the threat of negro participation in the Democratic primary, hung over the Arkansas political front Monday.

As the candidates were putting the final touches on their campaigns, Dr. J. M. Robinson, president of the Arkansas Negro Democratic Association, reported that negro Democrats will attempt to vote not only in Pulaski County, but also in seven additional counties. He said that negroes had been permitted to vote in Garland and Sebstian Counties in other primaries.

No Disturbances Expected

Negro Democrats will make an effort to vote in Pulaski, Garland, Sebastian, Ouachita, Miller, Union, Faulkner and St. Francis Counties, Dr. Robinson said.

Neither Dr. Robinson nor officials of the State Democratic Party were fearful of disturbances, because the negroes have been instructed to make no trouble. However, it was learned that precautions against outbreaks have been taken in some of the eastern counties.

"All negro Democrats have been instructed how to proceed and they will not cause trouble at the polls," Dr. Robinson said. We will not file any complaints with the Department of Justice Tuesday, but will compile any reports of refusal to permit us to vote and present them later."

The district attorney's office will be open here Tuesday, but state and county offices will be closed. Many state employes left the Capitol Monday afternoon to return to their homes to vote Tuesday.

Vote To Be Light

Political observers and state officials predicted that the vote Tuesday will range between 150,000 and 180,000 as compared with 263,000 in the previous primary. There are 360,000 qualified voters in the state. Approximately 10,000 of these are negroes, it was estimated by Dr. Robinson.

While most of the candidates predicted victory by good margins, it was the opinion that most of the races will be close and that some contests of the vote may be expected, even if there is no invalidation of the entire election because of the racial issue.

Monday had its final political blasts, as Governor Adkins inserted his first political advertisement and urged the citizens to vote. He also maintained that despite heavy pressure from all sides he has not and is not indorsing any candidates.

Friends Insert Ad

Another political advertisement, from friends of the Governor, caused considerable comment. The advertisement carried a photostatic copy of Dr. Fred Keller's registration card in 1917, which showed that he was conscientiously and religiously opposed to war. Dr. Keller asserted last week that the administration would attack him on the grounds of being a conscientious objector. The advertisement was sponsored by a committee of World War Veterans.

Governor Adkins had no comment to make on the election Monday, but he spent little time at his office.

Leaders of the Brooks Hays campaign and directors of Lieut. Gov. Bob Bailey, continued their heated battle of ads on the part that Mr. Hays played in the 1938 meeting of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare.

Winn Draws Small Crowd

Oscar Winn, who is also seeking the right to represent the Fifth Congressional District, made his appearance Monday, but he drew only a few listeners.

In the senatorial race, final speeches were made Monday night by most of the candidates or their leaders. Political observers said that the final check showed that the race will be very close. Some estimated that there would not be more than 10,000 to 20,000 votes metween the first and last man in the race.

There was little interest in the races for state jobs.

Here's how the ballot will look to the voter Tuesday:

For United States Senator—John L. McClellan, David D. Terry, Clyde T. Ellis, Jack Holt. For representative—Oscar H. Winn, Brooks Hays, A. L. Rotenberry, Bob Bailey. For governor—Bill Neill, Vernor Heath, Fred Gentry, Homer M. Adkins. For associate justice of Supreme Court—Leffel Gentry, Ed F. McFaddin, Charles Mehaffy. For state land commissioner—Ira J. Golden, John H. Page, E. D. Woodburn, Parmer Taylor, Claude A. Rankin.

In the event no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast for the office he seeks the two high men will meet in a run-off primary Aug. 11.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

DEMOCRATS TURN BACK NEGROES AT ARKANSAS POLLS

Action to Be Reported to U. S. Justice Dept.

Little Rock, Ark., July 28 (AP).—A few Negroes in scattered sections of Arkansas attempted unsuccessfully to vote in today's Democratic preferential primary and a spokesman said the denials will be reported to the department of justice.

Dr. J. M. Robinson, president of the Arkansas Negro Democratic association, which has been leading the fight for Negro voting in primaries, said association officials will compile information and forward it to Thurgood Marshal, attorney for the Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

First reports of attempts by Negroes to vote came from Little Rock, Pine Bluff, and Conway. In all cases the Negroes walked away quietly after they had been refused ballots.

At Camden, some Negroes who had been permitted to vote in Democratic primaries for years were allowed to vote today without challenge. Voting generally was light.

Halted at Polls Door.

J. H. McConico, 58 years old, secretary of the Arkansas Negro Democratic association, appeared at his voting precinct shortly after the polls opened, but he got no further than the door.

The bailiff stopped him outside the voting place with the statement, "This election is for white electors only."

McConico asked the bailiff's identity, and when he replied he was a deputy sheriff, McConico turned and walked away.

William Burns, the bailiff who stopped McConico, said he took the action on the basis of printed general election instructions which specified that "only white Democrats are eligible to vote."

Dr. Robinson told his followers to "bow politely and leave without ado" if they were refused a ballot. He told Negroes to vote only for candidates for the United States senate and the house of representatives.

Cites High Court Ruling.

The Negro association said it was relying on a 1941 Supreme court decision, holding that primary elections and nominating conventions are subject to federal regulation insofar as they apply to candidates for federal offices. It claimed the decision superseded a 1930 court ruling that the Arkansas Democratic party has the same right to restrict its membership as fraternities and similar organizations.

The racial issue was raised by a candidate for congress. Lieut. Gov. Bob Bailey of Russellville, seeking the nomination in the 5th [central] congressional district, criticized one of his opponents, Brooks Hays, for taking part in the 1938 Birmingham, Ala., convention of the Southern Conference of Human Welfare, which adopted an anti-Jim Crow resolution.

Hays, replying to Bailey's criticisms, declared he was not present when the anti-Jim Crow law resolution was adopted, and criticized Bailey for raising the racial issue "at a time when civic groups and unselfish citizens are bending every effort to keep down friction."

At stake today were nominations for senator, 3d and 5th district congress seats, governor, land commissioner, and a supreme court seat. The polls opened at 8 a. m. [central war time] and closed at 6:30 p. m.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Primary Test Looms As Arkansas Ballots

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., July 28.—(AP)—Apparently preparing for some sort of a legal test, a few Negroes tried and, with one exception, failed to vote in today's statewide Democratic preferential primary.

Election officials at Little Rock, Pine Bluff and Conway turned away would-be Negro voters, explaining that the election was for white people only. The state's party rules restrict membership to "qualified white electors."

At Camden, in south Arkansas, however, a few Negroes described as long-time residents of the community who had been permitted to participate in primary elections for many years voted as usual.

Birmingham, Ala. News
August 4, 1942

Negroes In Arkansas Demand Primary Vote

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—(AP)—The Arkansas Democratic party was given until Friday, Aug. 7, to grant Negroes the privilege of voting in primaries in a letter sent Democratic State Committee Secretary Harvy Combs Tuesday by Dr. J. M. Robinson, president of the Arkansas Negro Democratic Association.

Dr. Robinson's letter said that if a favorable reply is not received by them then "we have no alternative in the protection of our veracity to 13,000,000 people but to appeal to the federal courts for relief."

Negroes were refused ballots in the July 28 preferential primary when they attempted to vote. Party officials explained Democratic rules limit membership to white electors.

Another primary is scheduled for Aug. 11.

The Negro vote effort is based on a U. S. Supreme Court ruling in 1941 which ruled primaries subject to federal regulaiton in races for federal office.

Negro Voting Is Big Issue In Arkansas Primary

Democrats Are Going To Polls Today

"The Courier-Journal"

Little Rock, Ark., July 27 (AP)—The question of Negroes voting in a Democratic Party primary in the South, raised both by members of that race and a congressional candidate, tonight overshadowed other issues in tomorrow's biennial state-wide Democratic preferential primary election.

The Negroes themselves, working through the Arkansas Negro Democratic Association, planned to try to vote in Little Rock, Pine Bluff and Forrest City despite a party regulation restricting primary voting privileges to "qualified white electors."

In the Fifth (Central) District, Lieut. Gov. Bob Bailey, Russellville, through large newspaper advertisements, criticised Brooks Hays, former Farm Security Administration official, for participation in the 1938 Birmingham, Ala., convention of the Southern District congressmen, governor, land commissioner and Arkansas Supreme Court justice.

Secretary June P. Wooten of the Pulaski County (Little Rock) Central Committee said Negroes had never voted in an Arkansas primary since the elections were started in 1907. A small number of Negroes normally vote in all general elections and in 1870 they were urged to vote by Republican leaders in an effort to unseat the carpetbag regime.

Wooten said the question of Negro voting in primaries was settled by a United States Supreme Court decision in 1930 that held the Arkansas party, like a lodge or fraternity, had a right to restrict its membership.

Rules Prohibit Membership

Harvey J. Combs, secretary of the State Central Democratic Committee, said that the rules of the Democratic Party prohibit negroes from being members, and that since they are not eligible for membership they will not be able to participate in the Democratic primary or the run-off on Aug. 11.

Renewal of the fight to permit negroes to vote in the state Democratic primaries came Wednesday when Dr. J. M. Robinson, president of the Negro Democratic Association, announced that negro Democrats will hold a mass meeting Sunday afternoon here to discuss their participation in the primary election Tuesday.

Dr. Robinson, who has been a leader in the fight to win for the negroes the right to participate in the Democratic primaries, said that he expects to interview Mr. Wooten this week. He had not seen Mr. Wooten late Wedensday.

Expect Test Suit

Democratic leaders said that they expect a test suit to be brought as a result of the meeting, but Dr. Robinson said that such was not the case. Once before Dr. Robinson took the case to the courts, where it was held that the party rule was supreme. The United States Supreme Court refused to grant an appeal from the ruling of the Arkansas Supreme Court.

Leading members of the party see the effort to permit negroes to vote in the Democratic primaries as a drive to split the Democratic party in the South.

Governor Adkins declined to discuss the move by saying that it was a party matter.

While the move by the negroes was the highlight of the day, the political campaign continued the steady pace it has set since Sunday.

Governor Adkins continued handling his duties at the Capitol, depending on his record to carry him to victory in the primary. Dr. Fred Keller, his principal opponent, continued his speaking tour in Northwest Arkansas.

Adkins Is Attacked

Speaking at Melbourne, he declared that Governor Adkins said last week that "he positively would not permit the schools of Arkansas to be invaded by the hordes of Japanese alien enemies" he had brought into the state. He said that this statement is "creating considerable fear among those who have observed that the Governor usually does exactly the opposite of what he says he will do."

In the senatorial campaign, the candidates announced plans for rallies over the week end.

Representative Clyde T. Ellis reported that he will speak at 6:30 o'clock Thursday night from Batesville via radio. Friday he will have a district wide rally at Bentonville. This address will also be broadcast.

His headquarters announced that three associate campaign leaders had been appointed. They are Mayor Tom English, Van Buren; Mayor W. H. Hundhausen, West Memphis, and Chism Reed, Paris, president of the Arkansas Beef Cattle Breeders' Association.

McClellan To Speak

John L. McClellan, Wednesday was notified that the Grant County Central Committee had indorsed his candidacy. Mr. McClellan will speak Friday night in Little Rock.

Atty. Gen. Jack Holt's headquarters reported that he will speak at Forrest City Thursday night. Friday he will visit Des Arc, Brinkley, Hughes and Helena and Saturday at Tuckerman, Batesville, Newport, Searcy, Cabot and England.

Representative David D. Terry is on a tour of Eastern Arkansas.

News began to flutter in from the Second and Third Congressional Districts Wednesday. Reports were that heated campaigns are being waged in each of the districts. In the Second District, Wilbur Mills is opposed by O. B. Robbins, and there is a three-cornered race in the Third.

Brooks Hays, former FSA administrative officer, and Lieut. Gov. Bob Bailey, the leading candidates in the Fifth District, continued their drive for the some 25,000 to 30,000 votes expected to be cast in the district.

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

Arkansas Bans Negroes From Po'ls in Primaries

Special

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—While the campaign against the poll tax as one of the most vicious of undemocratic practices swept the nation this week more than 100 Negroes of Arkansas, including presidents and deans of colleges, ministers, professional men, teachers, laborers and service employes opened a home front. Tuesday as they presented themselves at polling places to vote in the primaries.

As the polls closed at 6 p.m., refusal of voting privileges had been reported from every county except Ouchito where, it was said, Negroes had been permitted to cast ballots.

The movement was spearheaded by Dr. John M. Robinson, president, Arkansas Negro Democratic Association. Robinson, president of the county Negro medical society, state vice president of the National Medical Association and member of the medical examining board in his local Selective Service area, was himself refused, as was Dr. John H. Minnifield, secretary of the Democratic Association.

Interviewed by phone, Dr. Robinson told PV:

"Every Negro who joined us in the march to the polls was a qualified voter and supported the Democratic ticket in 1940. Each one also possessed a poll tax receipt, attesting to his or her eligibility to vote."

(The poll tax in Arkansas is $1 per year, payable by August 15 of each year. Possession of a 1941 receipt established eligibility to vote in the primaries Tuesday.—Ed.)

Barring of the Negroes from voting took different forms in different polling places. According to Dr. Robinson, at one place, a deputy sheriff stationed himself outside the polling station and turned Negroes away at the door. In others, he said, the judges on duty at the polls informed Negro voters very firmly that they could not vote because of a ruling of the Arkansas Democratic party.

In view of previous sanction by state courts of the voting ban, Dr. Robinson instructed applicants for voting privilege to seek the right to cast their ballots only for candidates seeking federal offices, not to try to break thru in the state contests.

Use of the refusal as basis for a US Supreme Court fite on poll taxes covering primaries for federal office is expected but Dr. Robinson, declaring that "returns are still somewhat scattered," could issue no definite statement on this.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

NEGROES CAN'T VOTE IN ARKANSAS PRIMARY

State Secretary Says They Are Not Democrats

SEE MOVE TO SPLIT PARTY

Leaders Expect Test Suit To Be Brought—Mass Meeting Will Be Held At Little Rock Sunday To Discuss Plan

By EUGENE RUTLAND
From The Commercial Appeal
Little Rock Bureau

LITTLE ROCK, July 22. — Arkansas' negro "Democrats" will not be permitted to participate in the Democratic primary on July 28, despite the efforts of the Arkansas Negro Democratic Association to force the issue, state and county Democratic leaders said Wednesday.

June Wooten, secretary of the Pulaski County Central Committee, said, "We have always instructed election officials to refuse to permit a negro to vote at the Democratic primaries, because he was not a member of the Democratic party. The same rule will apply this year."

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

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Leading members of the party see the effort to permit negroes to vote in the Democratic primaries as a drive to split the Democratic party in the South.

Governor Adkins declined to discuss the move by saying that it was a party matter.

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Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

NEGROES PLAN TO VOTE IN ARKANSAS PRIMARY

Serve Notice On Party Chiefs They'll Go To Polls

BALLOT ORDERED BARRED

Democratic Committee Holds They're Not Eligible—Warning Follows Injection Of Racial Issue In Campaign

By EUGENE RUTLAND
From The Commercial Appeal Little Rock Bureau

LITTLE ROCK, July 26.—Arkansas' negro Democrats served notice on the State Democratic Committee Sunday at a mass meeting that they will make an effort to vote in the Democratic primary Tuesday as the racial question was brought into the foreground in the race in the Fifth Congressional District.

Lieut. Gov. Bob Bailey in half-page advertisements criticized Brooks Hays, one of his opponents in the race, for participating in the 1938 meeting of the "Southern Conference for Human Welfare," in which police authorities in Birmingham refused to permit negroes and whites to sit together.

Charges Hurled

Leaders for Brooks Hays charged that Mr. Bailey had issued the advertisement because he was "floundering in defeat" and that he was "resorting to an 11th hour sneak, that of using racial prejudice, in a futile attempt to save his political face."

In a full page advertisement, Mr. Hays' campaign leaders declared that Mr. Hays was not present when the "Jim Crow resolution was passed," but that he was in New Orleans on Government business. They also reported that Mr. Hays took no part in the conference program. They pointed out that a candidate in the senatorial race attended the meeting and listed others from the state.

During the last few weeks there have been many rumors in regard to the racial issue and leaders of the Democratic party were hopeful it would not be brought into the open.

Several hundred members of the Arkansas Negro Democratic Association held their announced meeting Sunday and the session was broadcast by a local station. Dr. J. M. Robinson, president of the association, declared that "we are going to the polls Tuesday to vote—to vote in the senatorial and congressional races.

Won't Insist On Ballot

"We want to avoid conflicts. If you are refused the right to vote, politely leave the booth. I don't anticipate any trouble or any denials of your right to vote—but if the election officers refuse to let you vote—they will be taken care of later."

Dr. Robinson said "the meeting was called to groom you for voting in the Tuesday primary. We have been instructed by the Department of Justice to report any efforts by election officials to keep us from voting in this primary, which is tantamount to election."

Officials of the State Central Democratic Committee held last week that the negroes will not be allowed to vote because they are not eligible to become members of the Democratic Party. County election officials have been instructed that the negroes are not eligible.

Senatorial candidates were at their headquarters Sunday, with the exception of Representative Clyde T. Ellis, who remained at Bentonville.

Speeches Scheduled

Senatorial Candidate John McClellan still had several speeches to make. He speaks at Benton, Sheridan and Camden Monday.

Representative David D. Terry will speak at MacArthur Park at 9 o'clock Monday night. Atty. Gen. Jack Holt will attend a homecoming Monday night at Harrison.

In the Fifth District congressional race, Mr. Hays will attend a homecoming at London and will close his campaign with a talk at Atkins. Mr. Bailey has a speech scheduled at 8:30 o'clock Monday night at MacArthur Park.

Birmingham Post
Birmingham, Alabama

NEGROES SEEK ARKANSAS VOTE

Injection Of Issue Into Race Spurs Interest In Primary

By United Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., July 28.—Arkansas Democrats went to the polls today to nominate candidates for governor and U. S. senator and terminate a colorful campaign enlivened by a last-minute injection of the Negro suffrage issue.

Less than 200,000 of the state's 360,000 qualified voters were expected to cast ballots. In eight counties, Negroes—barred from balloting by party regulations—were expected to attempt to vote for candidates for Federal offices. They did not intend to vote for state offices.

No Trouble Expected

Party officials and Negro leaders said that no racial trouble was anticipated.

Chief interest centered in the four-man race for the Senate, highlighted by the "dark horse" candidacy of former Congressman John L. McClellan, who came from comparative obscurity to rank as the leading contender.

The Negro suffrage question came up first in Pine Bluff when Negro employes of a defense plant started petitioning to have the suffix "bey" added to their names, contending they were of Mohammedan descent and should not be classed as Negroes.

Court Fight Seen

The movement gained some support in the southern half of the state and reached a climax Sunday when a meeting of Negroes at Little Rock was urged to cast ballots in the contests for the U. S. Senate and House of Representatives.

Leader of the movement has been Dr. J. M. Robinson, president of the Arkansas Negro Democratic Assn. Robinson said Negro Democrats would attempt to cast ballots but would not "cause trouble at the polls."

Robinson said all incidents of Negroes being refused permission to vote for Federal offices would be listed and filed later with the U. S. Department of Justice.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

RACE ISSUES CONFUSE ARKANSAS VOTE TODAY

Ex-FSA Official, Out for Congress, Is Hit as Jim Crow Foe

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., July 27 (AP)—Racial issues, raised both by a Negro organization and a Congressional candidate, overshadow other issues in tomorrow's biennial State-wide Democratic preferential primary election.

Negroes, working through the Arkansas Negro Democratic Association, planned to try to vote in Little Rock, Pine Bluff and Forrest City despite a party regulation restricting primary voting privileges to "qualified white electors."

In the Fifth (central) district, Lieut. Gov. Bob Bailey of Russellville, through large newspaper advertisements, criticized Brooks Hays, former Farm Security Administration official, for participation in the 1938 convention of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare at Birmingham, Ala., where an anti-Jim Crow law resolution was adopted.

Messrs. Hays and Bailey are rivals for the Congressional seat which is being vacated by Dave Terry of Little Rock, one of four candidates for United States Senator.

Negro leaders and white authorities said they expected no trouble. Dr. J. M. Robinson, president of the Negro association, instructed Negroes to vote only for candidates for the United States Senate and House, and to "bow politely and leave without ado" if a ballot was refused them.

At stake tomorrow are nominations for Senator, Third and Fifth district Congress seats, Governor, Land Commissioner and Supreme Court Justice.

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

COLORED VOTERS MAKE TEST CASE IN LITTLE ROCK

Many Attempt to Cast Ballots In Primary But Are Denied Right

Barred at Polls, Action is Reported to U. S. Justice Department

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., July 26 (ANP)—At the last Tuesday's State Democratic preferential primary, Negro voters were refused ballots by election officials at Little Rock, Pine Bluff and Conway, thus paving the way for a test case which may ultimately remove the bar against colored electors of the state.

Elections officials of the cities mentioned explained that the election was for white electors only, that the state's party rules restrict membership to "qualified white electors.'

In furtherance of the plan for a legal test, Dr. J. M. Robinson, president of the Arkansas Negro Democratic association, said a full report would be sent to Thurgood Marshall of New York City, attorney for the NAACP.

Dr. Robinson had advised the voters to seek a ballot, that if it were refused, "to bow politely and leave without ado." He also said that Att. Marshall already had been in conference with department of justice officials.

The first reported test came in Little Rock, when J. H. McConico, 58-year-old secretary of that city's NAACP Branch, was stopped at the door of the polling place by a baliff who said: "This election is for white electors only." McConico walked away without argument. He said later that his vote in Arkansas primaries had not been challenged since 1926. Before that, he explained, he had voted the Republican ticket.

The NAACP said it was relying on a 1941 Supreme court decision holding that primary elections and nominating conventions are subject to Federal regulation insofar as they apply to candidates for federal offices. The association claims the decision supersedes a 1930 court ruling that the Arkansas Democratic party has the same right to restrict its membership as fraternities and similar organizations.

Knoxville, Tenn. News Sentinel
July 26, 1942

NEGROES ARE URGED TO VOTE IN PRIMARY

By United Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., July 25—The Arkansas Negro Democrat Association will hold a mass meeting in Little Rock tomorrow to urge Negroes to go to the polls in the state Democratic primary election Tuesday, despite party regulations which permit only white persons to participate.

Dr. J. Robinson, president of the Association, said the Negroes would be asked to attempt to vote in contests for Federal offices only.

Under present Democratic party regulations only white persons in Arkansas are admitted to party membership.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
July 28, 1942

Race Issue Will Be Raised Today In Arkansas Primary

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Hays and Bailey are rivals for the congressional seat being vacated by Dave Terry, Little Rock, one of four candidates for U. S. senator. Hays, in rebuttal, denied he was present the day the resolution was adopted and criticized Bailey for raising the racial issue "at a time when civic groups and unselfish citizens are bending every effort to keep down friction."

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Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

US Orders Investigation Of Arkansas Primary Ba

SEP 5 1942

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—(FP)—Upon orders from US Atty. Gen. Francis Biddle, a federal grand jury has started investigating charges of poll tax fraud during the recent Democratic primaries in which Rep. Clyde Ellis, public power advocate, was eliminated.

The charges, which have been investigated by the FBI, include denial of ballots to qualified Negro citizens, and irregularities in use of poll tax receipts and counting of ballots, Biddle said. Negro Democrats unsuccessfully attempted to participate in the primaries, from which they have long been barred. Representive groups of Negroes appeared at polls in Little Rock, Pine Bluff and other cities, and were refused ballots.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, PA.

Democrats Uphold Ban Against Negro Voters

OCT 3 - 1942

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Oct. 1—(ANP)—The ban against Negroes voting in the state primary was reaffirmed Thursday by the Democratic state convention which also criticized efforts to abolish the poll tax in a resolution condemning "bureaucrats in Washington and other outside influences."

The Democratic party has as much right to restrict party voting to "qualified white electors" as a fraternal and religious organization has to restrict its membership, the resolution asserted.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Federal Grand Jury Probes Ark. Democratic Primaries

SEP 3 1942

FORT SMITH, Ark.—(ANP)—Last Monday U. S. District Judge John A. Miller charged a federal grand jury from the West Arkansas district to investigate reports of alleged fraud and civil rights violations directed against Negroes at the July 28 and Aug. 11 Arkansas Democratic primaries.

Judge Miller acted at the request of Atty. Gen. Biddle, who said the probe was state-wide in scope and came as a result of secret investigations during the past several weeks made by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

SEP 3 1942

In a news release issued in Little Rock, through U. S. Dist. Atyy. Sam Rorex of the Eastern Arkansas District, Atty. Gen. Biddle said the charges involved numerous instances of alleged irregularities in the use of poll tax receipts, counting of ballots and denial of voting privileges to qualified Negro voters.

To Vote In Texas To Defend Right To Appeal

The Informer
Houston, Tex
Houston
OCT 31 1942

Decision

HOUSTON, Texas—The right of the Texas Democratic party to deprive Negroes of the vote by exclusion from primaries will be challenged November 10th in the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals when Lonnie E. Smith, a Negro voter, appeals the decision handed down last June by the U. S. District Court here.

Counsel for the National Association ofr the Advancement of Colored People will argue the case. The American Civil Liberties Union and the National Lawyers Guild will file brief in behalf of the voters.

OCT 31 1942

Appeal On Classic Case

The appeal will be taken on the lower court's refusal to follow the decision of the U. S. Supreme Court in the recent "Classic" case arising in Louisiana, which held that interference with the right to vote in the Congressional primaries "is in fact an interference with the effective choice of voters at the only stage of the election procedure where their choice is of significance."

In refusing to follow this ruling the District Court held that while it might be effective in Louisiana where the primary is an actual part of the election procedure, it did not apply in Texas where the pprimary is the private affair of the Democratic party, financed exclusively by party funds.

The U. S. Supreme Court had prior to the Classic case sustained the right of a party to control its own primaries and to exclude Negroes from voting.

In answer the appeal will argue that the primary procedure is controlled by statute and that regardless of finances it is part of the legal election procedure.

Exclusion of Negroes solely because of race constitutes, therefore, a violation of the 14th, 15th and 17th Amenrment. Furthermore the dominance of the Democratic Party in Texas makes the primaries in effect the elections.

Since 1859 Democratic nominees have been elected in all major elections with two exceptions. In 1939 the Democratic party was the only organized party to cast more than 100 votes.

New Republic
New York, N. Y.

The Negro and "White Primaries"

SIR: A scholar once reported that twenty-five different methods are used to prevent Negroes from voting in the South. One does not have to be a scholar to know that few American citizens of color are permitted to vote in eleven Southern states. That is due to the white-primary system, whereby, through clauses in the rules of state or local Democratic Party committees, only whites may be members of the Democratic Party and thus vote in the primaries.

DEC 21 1942

In almost all of the South the Democratic primary is the real election, so that, as the Civil Liberties Union has pointed out, in the non-presidential years, in Texas, three-quarters more votes were cast for federal office in the Democratic primaries than were cast for all candidates in the general election.

The Workers' Defense League has appealed to Attorney General Biddle to act in defense of nearly four million adult Negroes who are prevented from voting by the white-primary device, intimidation and discriminatory registration procedures. Conspiracy to prevent people from exercising their constitutional rights is punishable under Sections 51 and 52 of the United States Judicial Code, and it is the duty of the Attorney General to act, by criminal prosecutions of the guilty parties.

Pressure from politicians whose racial views are closely akin to Hitler's has apparently prevented such action to date. All who believe we cannot rely on a policy of appeasement of American fascists should urge the Department of Justice to get criminal convictions of the Hitler racialists who use the white-primary device to maintain what they call "white supremacy" in the South.

MORRIS MILGRIM, National Secretary,
Workers' Defense League

New York City

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

TEXAS PRIMARIES CASE MAY REACH U.S. COURT

Dec. 5, 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 3—With a challenge to the Constitutionality of the Texas "white primaries," two American Civil Liberties Unions have filed a brief in the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals in behalf of Lonnie Smith, prominent Texas citizen who gained much notice recently in his fight for the right to vote in primaries of his state, and it is believed that the case may eventually reach the U.S. Supreme Court.

Mr. Smith is appealing from the decision of a lower court upholding the right of the Texas Democratic party to exclude Negroes from the primaries. It was argued by counsel for the NAACP on November 10.

Dec. 5 1942

The legal controversy centered around an apparent conflict between decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court.

52e-1942
Miami, Fla. Herald
March 15, 1942

Attack Ruling On Negro Vote

The state Democratic committee's ruling that negroes cannot register and vote in the Democratic primary was attacked in a Circuit court suit filed by two negroes Saturday against Carl Holmer, jr., supervisor of registration.

The negroes, Henry L. Smith and J. M. Cox, charged that March 4 Holmer refused to let them register on the ground that the 1927 state legislature enacted a law which allowed the committee to determine who shall register. The committee by resolution voted that negroes could not become members of the Democratic party.

"Such a law is unconstitutional and void," the suit states, "and denies the petitioners equal protection of the law in contravention of the Constitution of the United States."

It is also charged that the law "constitutes an illegal delegation of legislative power to the state executive committee" and creates "a condition of taxation without representation contrary to the Democratic principles of this country."

Tampa, Fla. Tribune
March 24, 1942

Suit Challenges Democratic Party's Ban on Negroes

MIAMI, March 23.—(A.P.)—Carl Holmer, jr., Dade county registration supervisor, today was ordered to respond by April 3 to a suit challenging the constitutionality of existing regulations which prevent Negroes from voting in democratic primaries.

Circuit Judge Barns issued the alternative writ of mandamus on the petition of Henry L. Smith and J. M. Cox, Negroes who asserted that Holmer refused to permit them to register for the democratic primary when they appeared in his office Marsh 4.

Such refusal, they contended, was "unconstitutional discrimination" against them because of their color.

Holmer replied that he had acted in compliance with a state law giving the executive committees of the various political parties the authority to designate whom they will accept as members.

"I have a resolution from the state democratic executive committee setting forth the qualifications and the first one is that voters must be of the white race to register as Democrats," he said.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Restrictions Aid Fascists, Brief Charges

PRESS 'RIGHTS'

MAR 1 8 1942

(Special to the Daily Worker)

MIAMI, Fla., March 17.—Henry L. Smith and J. M. Cox, Negro residents of Miami, yesterday set the ball rolling against the fascist restrictions on Negro voting rights in this state.

Mr. Smith and Mr. Cox filed suit jointly in Circuit Court against Carl Holmer, Jr., supervisor of registration, for refusing to register them to vote.

The case has brought the whole ugly issue of the denial of voting rights to Negroes into open relief.

Smith and Cox charged that on March 4 Holmer refused to register them for voting on the ground that the 1927 state legislature had given the committee of each party "the right" to determine who shall register.

The Florida State Democratic Committee exercised its "right" by passing a ruling that Negroes cannot register and vote in the Democratic primaries.

The suit brought by Smith and Cox against Holmer broadens the case to include the paramount issue facing the country—the unity of the American people to defeat the Axis.

MAR 20 1942

Terming the denial of voting to Negroes "grist for the fascist mill," the complainants point to the disastrous affects of the unconstitutional law upon the national unity of the people.

The suits states that "such a law is unconstitutional and void and denies the petitioners equal protection of the law in contravention of the Constitution of the United States."

It also charged that the law "constitutes an illegal delegation of legislative power to the State Executive Committee and creates a condition of taxation without representation contrary to the democratic principles of this country."

Miami, Fla. Herald
March 24, 1942

Registrar Must File Answer To Negro Voters' Challenge

Registration Supervisor Carl Holmer, jr., was ordered Monday to respond by April 3 to a suit challenging the constitutionality of existing regulations which prevent negroes from voting in Democratic primaries.

Holmer said he would appear before the county commission today to find out whether County Attorney R. W. Cason would be authorized to defend him in the litigation.

Circuit Judge Paul D. Barns issued the alternative writ of mandamus on the petition of Henry L. Smith and J. M. Cox, negroes, who charged that Holmer refused to permit them to register when they appeared in his office, March 4. Such refusal, they contended, was "unconstitutional discrimination against them because of their color."

Holmer said he acted in compliance with a state law giving the executive committees of the various political parties the authority to designate whom they will accept as members.

"I have a resolution from the state Democratic executive committee setting forth the qualifications and the first one is that voters must be of the white race in order to register as Democrats," he said.

The writ was issued on an amended petition filed by Attorney Claude M. Barnes, who started the suit for the two negroes a week ago.

Miami, Fla. Herald
April 16, 1942

Will Appeal Party's Ban On Negro Vote

The Democratic party's rule barring Florida negroes from registering and voting in the party primaries will be appealed "to the United States Supreme court if necessary," Attorney Claude M. Barnes asserted Wednesday night.

Counsel for two negroes challenging the party ban on their participation in the primary May 5, Barnes announced plans for the appeal after Circuit Judge Paul D. Barns upheld the party's right to limit its membership to white persons by denying the negroes' request for a peremptory writ.

Because of state-wide interest in the case and "far-reaching effect of an adverse decision," Attorney General Tom Watson appeared in person to argue against issuance of the writ. He arrived from Tallahassee at noon, delaying proceedings two hours.

Sought To Register March 4

The two negroes, Henry L. Smith and J. M. Cox, attempted to register as Democrats March 4. Supervisor of Registration Carl Holmer, jr., denied their requests, citing a state Democratic executive committee resolution of Jan. 26 as authority for his refusal.

The resolution reads in part:

"Terms and conditions under which legal electors shall be declared and taken as members of the Democratic party are—First: That they be white persons."

Through their white attorney, the negroes contended that in delegating authority to the executive committee to prescribe rules for membership in the party the Florida legislature had delegated a legislative function.

Watson argued that adoption of the white rule by party leaders "was within the power of the executive committee and not by virtue of any grant or delegation of legislative power; that the power was inherent and vested in the party."

Says Rule Is Reaffirmed

The resolution adopted last January was not a new rule, Watson declared. "It was but reaffirmation of a policy followed by the Democratic party since Florida was admitted to statehood."

Moreover, he said, the resolution was merely reaffirmation of a resolution adopted at the last state Democratic convention held in Florida, on June 20, 1900, at Jacksonville, in which it was maintained that the party should always be a white man's party.

Attorney Barnes, who is also a candidate for the state legislature, said when he filed the suit that "others, in addition to the two negroes," were behind the proceedings, but refused to name them.

Miami, Fla. Herald
April 19, 1942

Negroes Request Vote Rehearing

J. M. Cox and Henry L. Smith, negroes, who lost a suit to compel Carl Holmer, jr., supervisor of registration, to register them for the coming election as members of the Democratic party, petitioned Circuit court Saturday for a rehearing.

The petition was filed by Claude M. Barnes, attorney, himself a candidate for the state legislature. He did not appear before Circuit Judge Paul D. Barns, who had dismissed the action.

The negroes charged that Holmer refused to allow them to register for the Democratic primary on the ground that the state Democratic executive committee was authorized by the state legislature to specify who shall be members of the party.

DeLand, Fla., Sun News
April 29, 1942

Negroes Banned In St. Lucie Primary

FORT PIERCE, Fla., April 29.—(UP)—Fourteen Negroes who registered in St. Lucie County to vote in the democratic primaries next month will not be given ballots, E. A. Whelan, county registrations supervisor, said today.

Whelan said he had notified election officials to give ballots only to white registrants, in compliance with a state democratic executive committee ruling prohibiting Negroes from voting in the primary.

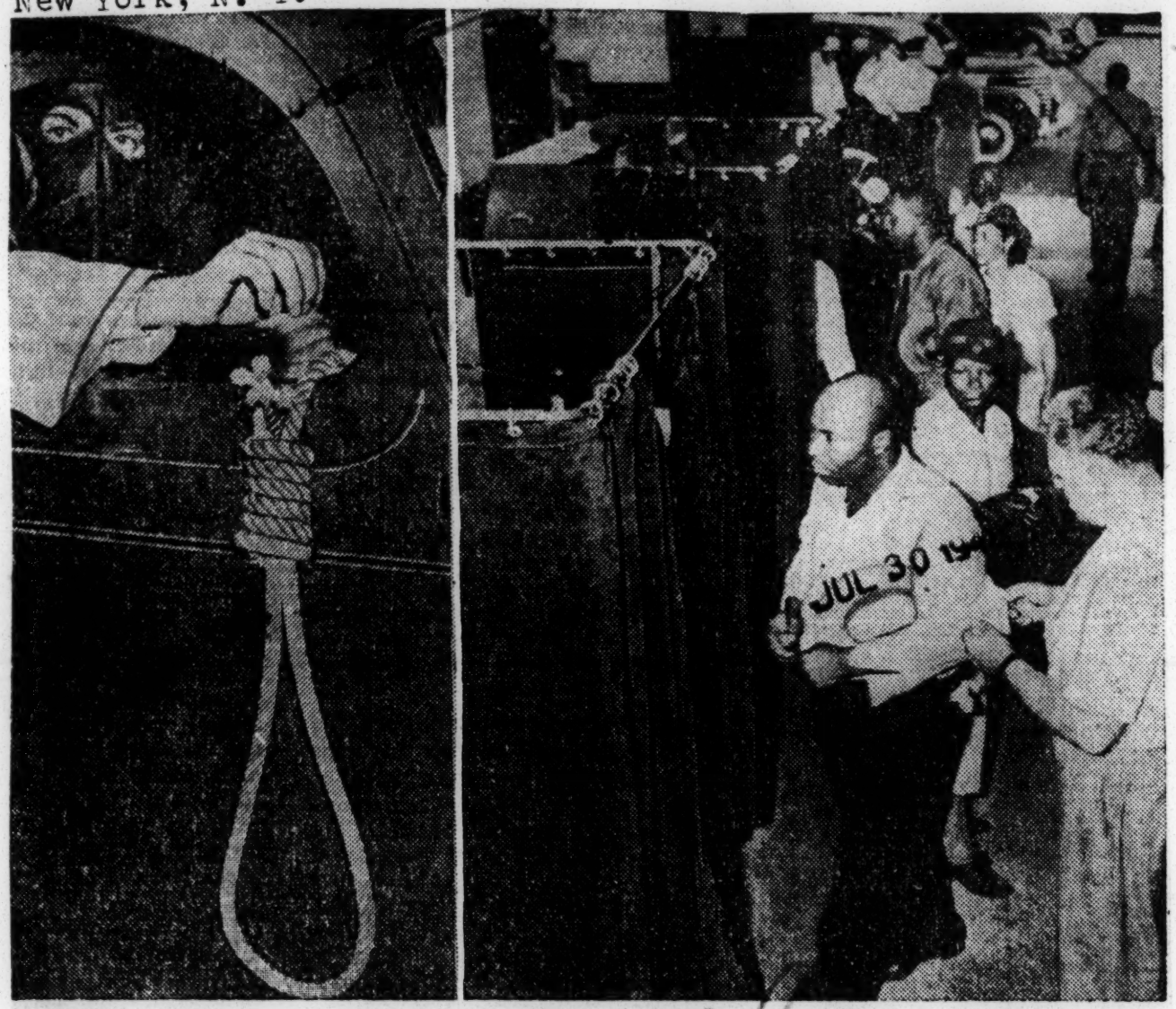
De Funiak Springs, Fla., Breeze
April 23, 1942

NEGROES REFUSEED REGISTRATION BY CIRCUIT JUDGE

Florida negroes who want to register as Democrats will appeal to the United States Supreme Court the action of a Dade county circuit court in refusing them the right to register as members of the Democratic party.

Circuit Judge Paul D. Barns upheld the party's right to limit its membership to the white race, after Atttorney General Tom Watson had gon to Miami and argued the case before him, in behalf of Supervisor of Registration Carl Homer. who had refused to register two Dade county negroes as Democrats.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.



When Negroes Braved Klan Terror to Vote: **Entering polls, at right, Negro citizens of Miami, Fla., are shown as they defied KKK threats and voted in a city election in 1939. At left, is a photo of a Klansman riding through the streets displaying a noose to frighten the Negroes from the polls.**

Seek Right To Vote In Fla. Primary

MAR 28 1942

PITTSBURGH COURIER

MIAMI, Fla., Mar. 26—Bringing action to force County Registrar Carl Holmer Jr., to allow Negroes to register as Democrats and vote in the May primaries was argued before Circuit Judge Paul Barnes last week. The suit, a mandamus action, was brought by Henry L. Smith and J. M. Cox and argued by Atty. Claude M. Barnes.

Smith and Cox charge that Holmer refused to let them register on March 4 on the grounds that the State executive committee had ruled out Negroes as being eligible for membership in the Democratic party. The committee based its action on a law enacted by the 1937 Legislature which allowed the State Committee to determnie who shall register.

MAR 28 1942

The petitioners charge the law is unconstitutional and void because it denies them the equal protection of the law in contravention of the Constitution of the United States, and constitutes an illegal delegation of legislative power to the State executive committee.

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In commenting on the suit M. L. Todd, chairman of the Dade County Democratic executive committee, said "I think the Democratic party owns the right to say who can and can't belong to it."

Orlando, Fla. Morning Sentinel
April 16, 1942

Negroes Can't Vote In Demo Primaries

MIAMI [AP] Circuit Judge Paul D. Barns upheld yesterday the right of the Democratic Party in Florida to limit its members to white persons.

Judge Barns denied a peremptory writ of mandamus asked by Henry L. Smith and J. M. Cox, negroes who sought to compel Registration Supervisor Carl Holmer Jr., to register them for the May primary.

52e-1942
Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

NEGRO VOTE

NEW DEAL CONSERVATISM DELIVERED THE RACE VOTE TO REACTIONARY G.O.P.

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

Nov. 21, 1942

THE NEGRO vote of Illinois and New York was delivered into the hands of what I would call reactionary Republicans by the inability of the Administration to throw out even a verbal sop. Now the die is cast, the pattern is set, the Democrats are on the run and the Negro, sure as fate, will tumble down into the Republican ranks next Presidential election. For sometime the New Deal (or what is left of the New Deal) has been getting more and more conservative and luke warm toward Negroes. The southerners always more or less in key positions in the House and the Senate, demanded and were appeased time and again in order to get them to go along with the President's foreign policy. With the defeat of most of the liberal northern Democrats, and with the narrow margin of control which the Democrats have both in the House and Senate, not only is the party more southern in origin but a few demagogues like Rankin of Mississippi or Tom Connally of Texas can block any piece of legislation in retaliation for any concessions made to the Negro. The reactionary southerners will rule the new Congress and that means not much good for the Negro and the Negro knows it.



Mr. Cayton

NEED NEW PARTY

On the other hand, Negroes have no bargain in the reactionary-isolationists Republicans of the Curly Brooks-Hamilton Fish type. Indeed when one speaks of the Republican party it is hard to know whether they are talking about the Luce outfit (Time, Life and Fortune) with its American imperialism, Hamilton Fish with his Nazis connections or Wendell Willkie with his "Century for the Common Man." It is my hunch, however, that the Republicans will soon boot Willkie out and the reactionaries will take over, in which case little good can be expected from them. Of course, what would be desirable would be the formation of a new party but that seems hardly likely before the next Presidential election.

THE PROSPECTS to one of my political leanings is anything but hopeful. The New Deal Democrats could have done much for the liberal cause if it had not been for their paralyzing fear of the South. In the Chicago campaign liberals could not get from Washington any statement that the Administration was for the anti-lynch bill, that any important individual of the Administration was for the anti-lynch bill or that anybody, for that matter, was against lynching. And this in the face of the fact that there had been three brutal lynchings in Mississippi a couple of weeks before election and Curly Brooks was pounding them to pieces with it as an argument for his election. Just another incident which shows how frightened the Administration leaders are to even speak of the Negro problem was shown in Secretary of State Hull's refusal to elaborate on his statement urging world racial freedom by saying "This means Negro too."

Now, from this new Congress—from this southern reactionary-Democratic Congress—the brother can expect very little. I think you can kiss the poll tax goodbye and Rankin would rather lose the war than have the anti-lynch bill passed. Then take the new Republicans on the other side of the House. Well, you take them if your politics runs that way, I can't.

SOME OF my white liberal friends with whom I worked to elect one of the staunches friend's the Negro has ever had in Congress, Raymond S. McKeough, were inclined to feel particularly bitter because the majority of Negroes voted for Brooks. They stated that the Negro had made more progress under the Roosevelt Administration than under any other administration except that of Abraham Lincoln. But that held true of labor, the poor whites and those who benefited from Social Security, Federal Housing and the WPA. These friends expected the Negroes political memory to be longer than that of the hundred of thousand of white voters who benefited equally as well from the Roosevelt Administration. Further, there had not been any recent lynchings of white people and white people were beeing by voting against Roosevelt, about the so-called regimentation, rationing of coffee, sugar and tires and other minor discomforts which goes along with running a war.

The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.

Southern Negroes Demand Their Civil Rights

DEC 25 1942

Norfolk, Va., Dec. 25 (ANP)—The findings of the Southern Conference on Race relations held at Durham, N. C., last Octber and developed by a sub-committee chairmaned by Dr. Charles S. Johnson of Fisk, have just been released by P. B. Young, Sr., chairman, and Dr. Gordon B. Hancock, secretary of the conference executive committee.

Challenging white America and especially the white south, to give "common-sense consideration for improvement in Negro status," the statement which its designers suggest voices the sentiment of many of the Negroes of the nation as well as those of the south, agrees that the war in which our nation is engaged is paramount and demands first, loyalty. That loyalty, the document continues, does not preclude consideration now of problems and situations that handicap the working out of internal improvements in race relations and which may affect the inevitable problems of post-war reconstruction."

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Demanding the ballot and full civil rights, the statement says: "We regard the ballot asa safeguard of democracy. Any discrimination against citizens in the exercise of the voting privilege, on account of race or poverty, is detrimental to the freedom of these citizens and to the integrity of the State. We urge:

The abolition of the poll tax as a prerequisite to voting.

The abolition of the white primary.

The abolition of all forms of discriminatory practices, evasion of the law, and intimidation of citizens seeking to exercise their right of franchise.

"Exclusion of Negroes from jury service because of race has been repeatedly declared unconstitutional. This practice we believe can and should be discontinued now.

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Security from wanton killings, police brutality and indignities, were among other points demanded. The necessity for protection against lynching was set forth with the proviso that federal statutes be invoked if adequate protection could not be guarantee.

In a complete resume of industry and labor as they affect the Negro, one-third of the south's population, the conference asked opportunities according to ability in skilled and unskilled work; the same pay for the same work; decried the wage-and-iob-freezing order of the War Manpower commission.

...ng the 77 signers of the ...tement were such widely known leaders as: Dr. Charles S. Johnson, Fisk university; Dr. James E. Shepard, N. C. College for Negroes; P. B. Young, editor, Journal and Guide; Dr. H. L. McCrorey, president, John C. Smith uiversity Dean R. O'Hara Lanier, Hampton institute, and William M. Cooper, director of extension at Hampton; Dr. John M. Gandy, president Emeritus, Virginia State; Don Davis, chairman executive committee, National Negro Business league; Dr. F. D. Patterson, Tuskegee institute; Dr. Gordon B. Hancock, Virginia Union university; L. H. Foster, acting president, Virginia State college; Dr. Horace Mann Bond, Fort Valley college; Dr. Rufus E. Clement, Atlanta university; Dr. B. E. Mays, president, Morehouse college; Dr. Robert P. Daniel, president, Shaw university; Prof. J. B. Blanton, principal Voorhees institute; Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown, Palmer Memorial institute; Forrester B. Washington, Atlanta School of Social Service; Jesse O. Thomas, U. S. Treasury, obnd sales; C. C. Spaulding, Durham, N. C.; Dr. G. Hamilton Francis, National Medical association; Dr. W. A. Fountain, president Morris Brown college; Dr. J. M. Ellison, president Virignia Union; M. F. Whitaker, president South Carolina State; President David D. Jones, Bennett college, and Dr. L. F. Palmer, executive secretary, Virginia Teachers' association.

officers called to active duty."

He added that besides the several hundred officers now on duty, of which more than 200 were trained at Howard University, there are several hundred officer candidates in training today, and not in segregated camps as was the case in 1918, when a separate camp for colored officer candidates was established at Des Moines, Iowa.

Better Future Outlook

Dr. Hastie then emphasized the fact that the white officer candidates who are training side by side with colored men today will be the colonels and generals of the future and their association with colored men on an equal basis is of great importance to the future of the colored man in the service.

Dr. Walter G. Daniel, university librarian, presided. Other participants were Dr. John Lovell, Jr., Dr. James M. Nabrit, Jr., and Dean Warner Lawson.

In education, better schools, equalization of salaries, graduate and professional training and Negro representation on school boards were urged.

Measures to improve the position of Negro farmers were set forth, adequate federal assistance being stressed. Protection of Negro soldiers in training and recreation areas; mandatory provisions that an adequate proportion of public hospital facilities and other social welfare and health services be provided and that Negro doctors be included on the staffs of public hospitals were among the many other demands made in the findings.

The document is expected to set and white citizens to insist that dress ourselves to the current probat rest opinions of white southern- these provisions be equal in kind lems of racial discrimination and ers who have been claiming that and quality and in character of neglect, and toways in which we southern Negroes did not espouse maintenance," but it likewise said may cooperate in the advancement various racial programs expounded flatly: of programs aimed at the sound in the north. The statement did "We are fundamentally opposed improvement of race relations with- agree that "in the public carriers to the principle and practice of seg- in the democratic framework." and terminals where segregation regation in our American society of the races is currently made man- whether of races or classes or datory by law as well as by estab- creeds. We regard it as both sen- lish custom, it is the duty of Negro sible and timely now however to ad-

DEC 25 1942

Atlanta, Ga. Journal
October 11, 1942

Crackerland In Washington

Mayor Kelly Says Democrats Will Defeat Senator Brooks

By RALPH SMITH

The Atlanta Journal Bureau,
Mayflower Hotel,
Washington, D. C., Oct. 10.

IN EPIGRAMATIC language and with a tone of finality that bespeaks oracular confidence, Mayor Edward J. Kelly, of Chicago, speaking of the senatorial campaign in Illinois, says:

"The result of the election will be celebrated in Illinois and not in Germany," meaning, in case you're perplexed, that Mayor Kelly foresees the election of Democrat Raymond McKeough, and not Republican "Curley" Brooks.

And the Mayor added, with evident amusement and in rare good humor, the billboards in Chicago and over the state are plastered with effigies of Brooks in the uniform of a World War veteran, in splashing colors over a catch phrase:

"Can a man like this be wrong?"

"The picture and the question underneath it indicate clearly that Brooks is on the defensive," suggests Kelly.

"It is in effect an admission by Brooks that he was wrong in voting, as a Senator, against the preparedness program of President Roosevelt, and seeks now to use his service in the First World War as a smoke screen to obscure his senatorial record.

"The methods of Brooks reminds me of a fellow of the name of Sampson, who once ran for alderman in Chicago. His record was not too savory; fact is, he'd operated a shell game, and when this got out on him, Sampson advertised that "it isn't what you used to be, but what you are today."

"He was soundly trounced in the election."

Kelly volunteered no estimate of the Democratic majority in Cook County, contented himself with the declaration that McKeough's majority will be ample and convincing.

Good Losers, These Notre Damians

There is one thing sure that can be said of the "Irish"—they can take it. The thought comes of the attitude of a couple of Notre Dame grads and boosters I bumped into the other day in the Mayflower Hotel—Ambrose O'Connell, first assistant postmaster general, and Ray T. Miller, United States district attorney at Cleveland. They had only the finest and most praiseworthy words for Georgia Tech's football team, despite their deep distress at the defeat of their Notre Dame.

"Since we lost, I am delighted Georgia Tech was the team that beat us," said O'Connell, who rates the Atlanta club as his second favorite always.

"And you can put it down that Tech deserved to win," said Ray Miller, whose nephews started in last Saturday's game.

"I saw the game, rooted for Notre Dame, of course but I have no alibis—the better team won last Saturday. Georgia Tech played better football, and that's the answer, and what is more the Tech team is one of theh most promising in the country, in my opinion.

"No, Notre Dame wasn't over-confident it didn't take the game too lightly. It played hard, fighting football, but the Georgians were just too good, and you'll hear more of those boys before the season ends."

Mr. Miller, who himself was a Notre Dame star years ago and whose brother, Don Miller—one of the Four Horsemen—formerly coached at Tech, sends greetings and compliments to Coach Alexander.

New York Democrats Heartened

The Democrats of New York have taken new heart, and in a substantial way, in consequence of President Roosevelt's indorsement of Attorney General Bennett's candidacy for Governor. They see hope today, where ten days ago all was gloom, yet—and get this, they aren't too confident.

The trend is shifting, they claim, and especially is this obvious in the Greater City among groups who have been either noncommital or lukewarm. It is their belief, further, that the President's statement has scotched defections to the American Labor Party, that Dean Alfange now is no more than a symbol of disunity, and whose activity can serve no purpose but to aid the Republicans.

By none is it claimed, as of today, that the trend is strong enough to insure a Democratic victory, so they are hoping it will gain momentum and strength these next three weeks. Within 10 days or two weeks they figure the full effect and value of the President's indorsement may be accurately appraised, in the light of its probable weight at the ballot box.

Population Shifts

The Democrats, admittedly, are perplexed by what they call removals—shifts in population from one precinct to another, from one section of the Greater City to another. In certain sections of Harlem and the Bronx I am told that "removals" among Negroes run as high as 40 per cent.

"Where they have gone remains to be established," a New York congressman told me today. "It may be that they were 'plants,' so to speak for the mayoralty election and designed to aid a particular candidate and if this be true they can be numerically counted out.

"The registration should shed light on the puzzle, and ascertain in what section, if any, these voters are now living. A majority of them are women, which indicated, obviously, they haven't gone into the Army and still are in the city.

It is repetitious and superfluous to dwell on the fact that Attorney General Bennett will carry the Greater City, which is overwhelmingly Democratic and has given to Roosevelt nearly a million majority; if it should give Bennett half that margin, it is almost a cinch he will be elected, for it is unlikely that Dewey's up-state majority will reach half a million votes.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Negroes Should Make Use Of Ballot: Jackson

NOV 4 - 1942

Professor's Plea Made At History Confab

NOV 4 - 1942

WASHINGTON (ANP)— Urging Negroes to pay the poll tax where required an to make full use of privileges of citizenship, Dr. Luther P. Jackson, professor of history at Virginia State college, Saturday at the second session of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History told his hearers to have every possible Negro go to the polls and vote.

They must do this to improve their status, Dr. Jackson said, and listed three things for them to do to become "full fledged citizens." They were: appeal to the courts for the enforcement of the laws and provisions of the constitution which guarantee him equality; work through the ballot and make the most of other privileges he may exercise keep the worthwhile accomplishments by members of the race before the "bar of public opinion."

NEGRO A CITIZEN

NOV 4 - 1942

Dr. Thomas I. Brown of Miner Teachers college opened the discussion by reviewing the question of whether the Negro is a citizen of the United States. He concluded that there are some serious qualifications to his status as a citizen.

Mrs. Lucy Harth Smith of Lexington, Ky., declared that history shows the Negro has demonstrated he is qualified to perform the duties of citizenship. Prof. Welfred Holmes of the Winston-Salem Teachers college urged Negroes to face the realities of modern existence with a spirit of sacrifice.

Dorothy Height of the YWCA emphasized that American Negroes must realize their struggle for enjoyment of the full rights of citizenship is not peculiar to their own race, and show interest in bettering conditions for all peoples throughout the world. Dr. W. Montague Cobb, Howard university school of medicine, urged that the Negro race develop more highly trained lawyers able to hold their own in court with the best legal experts.

NOV 4 - 1942

PROBLEMS DISCUSSED

Racial health problems were discussed at the first session Friday evening. Four speakers, including H. M. Brewer, Dr. Julian H. Lewis, Dr. T. D. Stewart, and Dr. W. Montague Cobb discussed various phases of this feature. L. Lemar Thompson of Hampton institute also spoke at this session. Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune presided.

Election of officers saw the unanimous reelection of the group which guided the destinies of the association last year. Mrs. Bethune, president; Louis R. Mehlinger, attorney in the justice department, secretary-treasurer, and Dr. Carter G. Woodson, director of the association. The executive council is composed of the three officers named above and the following Charles H. Wesley and Eugene A. Clark, Washington, D. C., Roscoe Dunjee, Oklahoma City; John M. Gandy, Petersburg, Va.; Evarts B. Greene, New York City; E. P. Southall, Tallahassee, Florida; Joseph J. Rhoads, Marshall, Tex.; W. R. Banks, Prairie View State college; Alexander L. Jackson and Bishop R. A. Carter, Chicago; A. M. Schlesinger, Harvard university; A. A. Taylor, Fisk university and H. C. Trenholm, Alabama State Teachers college.

PEPPER HAILS "GREAT DEMOCRATIC SURGE"

OCT 29 1942 California Eagle Los Angeles, Cal.

3,000 Cheer Senator's Address; Applaud Gov. Olson's Record

OCT 29 1942

Fitting climax to Anti-Poll Tax Sunday, which saw mobilization of Negro community in the anti-poyy tax fight, scores of telegrams from leading churches dispatched to Washington, 15,000 signatures gained in one day in a giant petition drive, — was the appearance four days ago of Florida's Senator Claude Pepper before a cheering audience of 3,000 at Second Baptist church here.

The Senator's address was promptly labeled most important Administration pronouncement since Vice-President's Wallace speech on the "Age of the Common Man." Pepper, author of the Pepper anti-poll tax bill is in California as a part of the President's effort to rally win-the-war support of Gov. Culbert L. Olson as opposed to Hoover-Hearst nominee Earl Warren.

Pepper's brilliant address follows:

OCT 29 1942

"If we mean to convince the rest of the world that America leads toward real democracy we must believe in democracy; good works begin at home!"

Pepper, hard-hitting Senate progressive, lashed out against enemies of a people's war, proclaiming, "This is no time for insincerity. This is no time for half-truths. Ths time demands strength, courage, the will to win a victory for all men, white, black, yellow."

OCT 29 1942

The poll tax, against which Pepper's bill is directed, exists in eight southern states, disfranchising a total of 10 million voters economically, unable to pay the voting levy. Six million of them are white.

When the Anti-Poll Tax measurre was introduced a year ago, Pepper, "people thought I was crazy." Since then, he pointed out, "a great surge of democracy has gone through the arth. Millions began to suffer and die,—not for cars, not for wealth, not for possessions, but for **people**, yellow, white, black. When that spirit began to move through Congress,—when that spirit surged through the House, the petition to draw the Geyer-Anti-Poll Tax bill from committee, was successful, and the bill passed the House overwhelmingly. It is that surging democratic spirit which will pass Anti-Poll-Tax legislation in the Senate."

OCT 29 1942

Pepper debated the poll tax issue recently in a nationally broadcast Town Meeting program with Texas' poll tax supporter, Rep. Eugene Cox. After the show, Pepper said, Cox told him, "Well. after all, this thing has outlived its day."

FREEDOM FOR ALL

"As never before," the Senator said, "the world is one, physically, geographically, spiritually. We have dedicated ourselves to the high task of securing freedom for all continents, all nations, and all colors . . .

"If this is just another war for empire; if this is just another contest for the right to exploit, we are as bad as those we defeat and American blood will have been shed in vain.

"We have, many problems here in this nation, problems of breaking down prejudice and recognizing the dignity of men—all men. A lot has gone before, scars, misunderstanding. But the question we must answer it: are we going to liberate the masses of people from privilege and wealth? I see America as a partnership not as a nation for master and servant."

OCT 29 1942

POINTS WAR CAUSES

There were two great fallacies which drew the country to its present situation, Pepper said. First, he said, was the fallacy that what happened far away, geographically, didn't matter to us. Second, he held, "was the idea that what was done to people elsewhere wasn't important to people here. So we let the enemies of mankind tak country after country and enslave people after people. Yet they were simply beating a path to our doors."

The Senator said that the very necessities of war were forcing great American refroms in education, housing, health. He said, "I hope this war will give your people (the Negro people) in the South skill in trades so that they may have the opportunity for achievement now denied them in an agricultural economy already hard pressed.

ES NEW FUTURE

Although voicing a strong warning against "weak men in Washington" who would attempt a negotiated peace with Hitler when the going gets tough, Pepper saw as the result of this war, "A greener field, a richer life than man has ever dared to dream of."

He said, "Even though this is a dark time. at the end of the corridor, I see light. Light, if we **make it so.**"

OCT 29 1942

At the conclusion of his address the huge mixed audience rose to its feet in a tumult of applauce. In leaving swiftly for another engagement, Pepper's aides literally battled their way through cheering throngs.

Chairman of the was Mrs. Charlotta A. I Eagle Editor. Other speeches came from religious and civic leaders of the Negro community, all expressing a determination that America must win the war.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Dobbs Asks Negroes To Vote Today

NOV 3 - 1942

Civic League Meets Tonight

NOV 3 - 1942

The Atlanta Civic-Political League, John Wesley Dobbs, president, will hold its regular November meeting tonight at eight o'clock in the Masonic Temple recreation room. The League will discuss important matters of the group at the meeting, Mr. Dobbs said.

The League president Monday night urged Negro Atlantans and Georgians to go to the polls today and exercise the right and practice of voting. Today's general election will see two independents — D. Talmadge Bowers, an Elberton monument dealer, and J. N. Foreman, an employe on a war project near Waycross, opposing Ellis Arnall, the Democratic party nominee. Senator Russell is being opposed by Mrs. Levert D. Shivers, of Norwood, a housewife and mother of six children. Henry A. Alexander, Atlanta attorney, is opposing Robert. Ramspect, the Democratic nominee in the fifth district, while Roscoe Pickett, Jr., of Jasper, is attempting to unseat Representative Frank Whelchel in the ninth district.

52e-1942

GENERAL

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

POLL TAXES "ON THE CUFF"

The Farm Security Administration's contribution to democracy has been the making of loans to white farmers for the purpose of paying poll taxes in the Southern States.

Unfortunately the Farm Security Administration is not color blind, so no loans are being made to Negro farmers to enable them to pay their poll taxes.

Even when Negroes make application for loans for this purpose they are turned down. JAN 24 1942

Here is a clear-cut case of the Federal Government aiding and abetting Negro disfranchisement with funds derived from the taxes paid alike by colored and white citizens.

Moreover, the director of the FSA Southeastern region flatly asserts that "the Farm Security Agency has not and never will do anything contrary to local custom and regulations." In this his boss supports him.

This has been the policy of the Administration religiously adhered to ever since the days of the NRA, and indicates that there is no desire or intention to adopt a really liberal policy toward Negroes, and that here again the spirit of the unreconstructed South has triumphed.

There was a time when a Federal agency would have hesitated to pay poll taxes "for whites only"; but those days are gone.

The pattern of segregation has been so firmly established that the business of "freezing" the Negro's status proceeds on all fronts.

The FSA is taking too much for granted, however, when it states what it "never will do." JAN 24 1942

"Never" is a long time, and before this war is over the director may have to eat his words in the interest of national unity and preservation. It has happened before.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa

Farm Security Office Accused Of Aiding Dixie Poll Tax Discrimination

JAN 24 1942

JAN 24 1942

JAN 24 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The Farm Security Administration is practicing discrimination in urging and making loans to white Farm Security clients for the payment of poll taxes in Southern states while denying such loans to Negroes, and, according to C. B. Baldwin, Administrator of the FSA, does not intend changing this policy.

JAN 24 1942

Loan Denied

It was learned by the NAACP last week that the FSA had issued instructions to include in the search of the records of white clients, a search as to whether or not poll taxes had been paid. If they had not, they are urged to do so and an amount sufficient to cover payment is included in FSA loans. Negroes are not only not included in this consideration, but even if a Negro should request such a loan it would not be granted.

Would Not Aid Negroes

Thurgood Marshall, special counsel of the NAACP, reported after a conference with Baldwin and other officials of the agency here, that Baldwin states that he would not issue instructions to include Negroes in this part of the loan now or in the future, and that he will stand behind the statement of E. S. Morgan, director for the Southeastern region of the agency that "the Farm Security Agency has not and never will do anything contrary to local custom and regulations." JAN 24 1942

——A Colored Judge——

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

FSA and Poll Taxes

FEB 1 1942

We take pleasure in publishing in the letter column of today's issue a communication from Mr. Tarleton Collier, regional information specialist for the Farm Security Administration, in reply to a recent editorial in which we discussed certain charges against that organization made by Judge H. K. Greene, of the Hale county, Ala., probate court.

Judge Greene made the statement that agents of FSA were seeking out, on the tax books, the names of its clients who were delinquent in payment of poll tax and advancing them the money with which to pay those taxes.

Judge Greene felt that this practice indicated a purpose to influence clients to whom it made loans to vote in favor of perpetuating the organization and perhaps other New Deal measures.

Mr. Collier's letter makes it plain that these loans are not advanced to clients except when specifically requested. He further contends that since rehabilitation of the low income farmer is one of the ends in view, re-establishment of good citizenship, including the right to vote, is consistent with the general policy of FSA.

We are frank to say that Mr. Collier's letter places the matter in a light somewhat different from that indicated by Judge Greene's charges.

We are not yet sure that FSA will not run afoul of Northern mischief-makers who will demand to know, beyond Mr. Collier's explanation, why FSA does not pay the poll tax of Negro clients and it still seems there might be something in Judge Greene's citation of the Alabama law, which says:

FEB 1 1942

> Any person who shall pay the poll tax of another, or advance him money for that purpose, in order to influence his vote, shall be guilty of bribery, and upon conviction shall be imprisoned in the penitentiary for not less than one or more than five years.

The motive for lending the money—whether to influence the client's vote or not—might raise some difficult questions.

At all events we are glad to publish Mr. Collier's letter as a matter of fairness to FSA, whose general purpose and achievements have been commended more than once in these columns.

FEB 1942

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.



JAN 27 1942

"In one moment pay glad life's arrears
Of pain, darkness and cold . . ."

* * *

All over the world men and women and little children are paying life's arrears of pain, darkness and cold today, paying at compound interest, paying in full and then all over again. Toward them in their crucifixion the Mother of Mercy is reaching, reaching as far as we strained, troubled but still untouched private citizens permit her with our contributions. Even though the Red Cross drive challenges to new effort and sacrifice it must comfort us, too, with a sense of goodness and greatness living yet in this savage world, of man's love and God's love, of tenderness, human sympathies, eyes that shine with mercy, hands that bring great help.

JAN 27 1942

"Calm through all the clamor" of new organization devoted to the war and its emergencies," reports Time Magazine, is "the American Red Cross. Since war's beginning, some 2,500,000 women had signed up for 14 definite, well established volunteer programs. . . . Its hard-working ranks were filled for the most part by women. The Red Cross . . . had its motor corps. More important were thousands of ladies in production centers who whipped up hospital garments, diapers, children's clothing, made millions of surgical dressings for the armed forces. Nurses' Aide Corps taught women to take over the routine jobs of nursing, to free trained nurses for other jobs. A blood donor's service filled blood banks for transfusions. With few delusions about women's greatest talents, officials stressed three prosaic training courses for housewives who wanted to help: First aid, home nursing, nutrition. Said President Roosevelt: 'The American Red Cross occupies a unique place' . . ."

JAN 27 1942

Many a good program or cause has as it own worst enemy a leadership which becomes so professional that it goes out of bounds thinking up new things to do in the good name. That may be the case with the much-mooted Farm Security Administration.

* * *

There is the matter of lending money to Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina tenant farmers to pay their poll taxes, for example. Editor Virginius Dabney, of The Richmond Times-Dispatch, whose defense of the FSA in general appeared in this column recently, is unqualified in disapproval of this poll tax-paying business. "On what basis," he asks, "can it be argued that money from the federal treasury ought to be used for such a purpose? How can such loans be justified? It is one thing to lend money to farmers so that they can diversify their crops, acquire chickens or pigs, and make themselves independent and self-reliant. If, after they have done so, they derive enough income from their greatly improved farm operations to pay their poll taxes, well and good. But it isn't the business of FSA agents to go combing poll tax records at the courthouses, and providing farmers who are delinquent with enough money to get on the voting list."

* * *

"Poll taxes are state and local taxes, and the federal government ought not to intrude into the poll tax picture, either with loans to farmers for tax payments, or with congressional enactments which would wipe out the taxes as prerequisites to voting in federal elections."

JAN 27 1942

Amen and amen! Like Mr. Dabney, we are opposed to all poll taxes as a prerequisite to voting. But we know that an even more fundamental menace to genuine democracy in times like these is the use of federal monies or offices in politics. The uses may be infinitely well intentioned and the ends desired may be totally worth while, but unless the sharpest sort of dividing line is drawn between the necessarily immense activities of government today and the freedom of the citizen from interference by that government in his exercise of democracy, our increasingly planned and controlled economy will do what it is always in danger of doing, turn first to Socialism and then to the slavery which is Socialism's final result.

JAN 27 1942

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

The FSA And Poll Taxes

The Farm Security Administration has been making loans to farmers for the payment of poll taxes in Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina. The FSA, in other words, has included in its efforts of rehabilitation not only the establishment of farm folk on a sound economic footing, but also on a sound citizenship footing.

Some persons in the state, however, have been "surprised and shocked" to learn of this. Probate Judge R. K. Greene, of Hale County, first learned of the FSA's efforts to eliminate poll tax delinquencies when he found that a representative of the FSA was checking county records of poll tax payments.

Judge Greene wonders if it is the purpose of the FSA "to create a group of voters subservient to the orders of the bureau? In addition to this fear, there seems to be considerable worry too about the possibility of the FSA paying back poll taxes of Negro citizens.

Such loans, however, are not being granted to Negroes now.

It is debatable, of course, whether this method of enabling delinquent poll tax payers to reassume duties and obligations of citizenship is entirely desirable. But it is not debatable that such reassumption *is* desirable. It is difficult to find other means of enabling these citizens to reassume active citizenship, however.

It seems doubtful to us that lending money to a man to enable him to vote is a greater potential pressure on that man than lending him money to set himself up as a self-sustaining farmer.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Senate Group To Hold Poll Tax Hearings

Pepper Measure Would End One Of South's Evils

WASHINGTON—(A N P)—Poll tax and its evils will get a thorough going over on March 12 when the U. S. Senate sub-committee on judiciary conducts hearings on the evil. Witnesses, including Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, will appear to urge the abolition of the tax. The hearing is on the bill introduced by Sen. Claude Pepper, Democrat of Florida.

Known as Senate Bill 1280, it calls for abolition of the poll tax in all federal elections on the grounds that the poll tax is not a qualification for voting within the meaning of the constitution.

Economic discrimination caused by the taxes will also be discussed during the hearings.

When the poll tax was removed in three southern states, the number of voters rose far above former levels. In North Carolina, the vote went up 70 percent in Louisiana, 90 percent and in Florida, 140 percen.

The poll tax still remains in eight southern states; Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Arkansas, Virginia, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.

Numerous southern historians have pointed out that the poll tax was originally imposed to keep the vote away from the poor farmers and working people in order to keep political control in the hands of a small class of wealthy voters.

An all out effort is being made by the group sponsoring the hearing and anticipation of success is high.

Members of the sub-committee on the judiciary include Senators Van Nuys of Indiana. Tom Connally of Texas; O'Mahoney of Wyoming; Chandler of Kentucky; Doxey of Mississippi; Norris of Nebraska; Austin of Vermont; Danaher of Connecticut. Wiley of Wisconsin, Burton of Ohio, the last five being Republicans and the former Democrats.

It is practically the same group that heard the anti-lynch bill when it came before the committee.

Savannah, Ga., News
April 23, 1942

The Negro Vote in 1942

The Republican national committee at its meeting in Chicago on Monday, while condemning any use of the war to extend "unsound economic panaceas," came out for ending, "under pressure of war," such injustices as "the discrimination against the negro citizen in industry, in labor, and in the armed services." The Republicans explained that this problem did not fall "in the realms of social experiment," but involved "wrongs under the Constitution."

The navy on April 7 abandoned its traditional rule against accepting negroes for enlistment for general service. This change in policy came several days after Wendell L. Willkie had publicly called the old policy "an injustice which makes a mockery of all our fine words." Negroes complain that they still are not eligible for commissions in the navy, and that negroes in the navy and marine corps will serve only in segregated units. The army has several hundred negro commissioned officers, including a brigadier general, and is organizing a full negro division and negro air units, but negroes complain of discrimination in army camps, where several serious brawls between negroes and whites have broken out.

Attempts by the administration to allay negro discontent have taken the form of executive action rather than legislative enactment. Last June 25 President Roosevelt issued an executive order forbidding disorimination against negroes on all defense contracts. On April 13, 1942, the War Production Board ordered ten industrial companies to cease racial discrimination in employment. And the Justice Department has procured indictments in connection with attacks on negroes moving into a new housing development in Detroit, and is investigating, with a view to criminal action, a recent lynching at Sikeston, Mo. But all this has not stilled negro complaints that qualified negroes are being kept out of well-paid jobs by administration encouragement of the closed shop, inasmuch as many A. F. of L. unions openly or covertly bar negroes from membership. All C. I. O. unions are supposed to accept negroes.

Since the New Deal came to power, negroes are believed to have swung over in large numbers from their traditional Republican allegiance to vote Democratic. Negroes were fully eligible under the farm aid, farm tenancy, housing, CCC, NYA, wage-hour, and other New Deal programs In 1934 the First congressional district of Illinois replaced a negro Republican with a negro Democratic representative, and has regularly re-elected the latter. The Republican platform of 1940 called for legislation to end "mob violence" (i. e., lynching), but the Republicans carried only one state, Michigan, with a substantial negro vote.

In January, 1938, an anti-lynching bill, previously passed by the House, came before the Senate. President Roosevelt indorsed the measure indirectly, not openly. After six weeks of a filibuster led by Senator Connally of Texas, now chairman of the foreign relations committee, the Senate voted for a motion by Majority Leader Barkley to take up other business. Two attempts to bring the anti-lynching bill to a vote by applying cloture were defeated. Republican senators voted, 12 to 1; and then 10 to 3 against cloture; even if all Republicans had voted for it, the cloture motion would have fallen short of the two-thirds vote needed.

Pending in Congress is a bill to outlaw poll taxes as a requisite for voting. Poll taxes are one means of discouraging negroes from voting in the South. The administration has so far taken no stand on the anti-poll tax bill.

The war boom has sent many negroes from the South to Northern and Western states, where they will be enabled to vote. Even two years ago, when the sixteenth census was taken, the "non-white" proportion of the total population had risen over ten years from 3.5 to 4.5 per cent in New York, from 4.4 to 5.0 per cent in Illinois, from 3.7 to 4.1 per cent in Michigan. In every state below the Mason and Dixon Line the proportion of "non-whites" in the total population showed a ten-year decrease. In the United States as a whole that proportion remained static at 10.2 per cent.

52e-1942
Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Speech Exposes Plight Of Disfranchised Negro

Southern Prosecutor Indirectly Reveals Citizens' Helplessness Under Poll Tax

(BY JULIUS J. ADAMS)

Several years ago a group of young Negro boys in a southern city met in a theatre one Sunday afternoon to discuss plans for organizing a Y. M. C. A. branch. One of the prime movers was a minister's son who, in school and out, had shown leadership qualities. He served as chairman, and was highly elated over the fact that he had been successful in obtaining as a speaker the county prosecutor—known in the State as the solicitor.

The official, a brilliant middle-aged lawyer, had established an enviable record of successful prosecution in capital cases. Enviable is used in the sense that any lawyer would consider it. A prosecutor's record is determined by his convictions just as a defense counsel's is reckoned by his acquittals. Only one other prosecutor in the history of the State had sent more men to the gallows. But for a southerner, this prosecutor was regarded as fair and impartial and Negroes believed they could always expect as square a deal from him as a Negro could get anywhere in the South.

Fear No Reprisal

One significant thing about the solicitor's speech that afternoon was his opening remarks:

"I am happy to be here," he said, "to witness the beginning of this most worthy movement. And when I say I am happy," he emphasized, "you must understand I mean it. Otherwise I wouldn't be here. I have no other reason for giving up a Sunday afternoon than that I am interested in what you are doing, since I have no fear of your hurting my political career, and I hardly expect any of you to engage me when I return to private practice."

In those last few words the prosecutor very definitely told the young men that since they were Negroes and couldn't vote, he would not have had to fear reprisal at the polls if he had ignored their invitation, and further that they were much too indigent to pay his fee, even if they wanted to avail themselves of his services.

If the Negro were a voter, and economically more substantial in the South, the story would have been just the other way around. And therein lies the fundamental difficulty of the Negro in the South in his struggle for a better life.

Just so long as public officials know they will not have to face the Negro at the polls, just that long will they continue to ignore and oppress him. Few men like the solicitor will speak at their meetings and, in other minor ways perform some acts of kindness for certain Negroes, but the cause of the race will remain more or less hopeless.

Pressure Is the Thing

A. Philip Randolph summed up the situation in a nutshell recently at the Coliseum in Chicago in speaking of President Roosevelt on the issue of the proposed March-on-Washington. He said: "Realizing the function of the President was one of the constantly balancing pressures and that he would inevitably move in the direction of the pressure of the greatest challenge, plans were mapped to build up the pressure of 100,000 Negroes marching on Washington. We planned the march to be all Negroes because we wanted the President and the country not to be left in any doubt that this march was the symbol and expression of discontent and resentment of Negroes themselves against discrimination in the army, navy, marines and air corps, defense industry and the government, and not some outbursts artificially stirred up and manipulated by the artful Communists.

"As a result of the pressure of the proposed march," he continued, "the executive order No. 8802 was issued and under it the President's Committee of Fair Employment Practice was established."

Politics Go on Always

The threat of 100,000 Negroes to march to Washington loomed as something more than the flooding of an already troubled capital with an army of people to create a police and traffic problem, and to provide a choice bit of material for Axis propoganda. It represented an enraged electorate that not only would visit its feeling against the national administration at the next general election, but would prove hostile to all those local officials who sought public office with the blessing of the administration. Politicians—war or no war—consider the opinion of their constituents.

And this brings us to the point of discussing the imperativeness of enfranchising citizens in all sections of the country if elected officials, by their acts, are going to be considerate of the needs, rights and privileges of all American citizens.

Must Abolish Poll Tax

No mayor nor Governor would permit terror to reign in his city or State against any group if he knew he would have to face that group at election time. Without a doubt the Odell Waller case would have had a different ending if Governor Darden hadn't felt a sense of political protection from outraged Negro citizens under the sheltering arms of the Virginia poll tax. That is why the vicious system practiced in eight of these United States, disfranchising millions of American citizens, must be abolished as an essential part of the democratizing process of the country.

Next week, in this space, we will publish the story of the poll tax and how it affects the entire nation as explained by the taciturn Maury Maverick, one time Congressman, and later mayor of San Antonio, Texas.

A battle is on in Congress now to pass an anti-poll tax bill, proposed in the Senate by Florida's Senator Claude Pepper, administration stalwart, who previously had teamed up with Lee Geyer, representing California's 17th District, on the Geyer-Pepper anti-poll tax bill in the 76th Congress.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

NAACP Acts In Federal Courts Against Lily-White Primaries In Arkansas, Texas And Alabama

Real war has been declared on the "lily-white" Democratic primary system throughout the South which excludes Negroes from the right to vote by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. In Arkansas, in Texas, in Alabama, the NAACP is taking action through the federal courts and has requested the intervention of the Department of Justice.

The NAACP announced this week in ALL states where the white primary excludes Negroes, it is prepared not only to file cases for damages in federal courts, but to prepare briefs and to request the Department of Justice to institute criminal prosecution against election judges and others under the United States Civil Rights Statutes.

This procedure is already being followed in Arkansas where a few Negroes were permitted to vote in the Democratic primary on July 28, but many were prevented. Affidavits from those who were refused permission are being taken and will soon be presented to the Department of Justice.

Negroes were barred from voting in the Texas Democratic primary on Saturday, July 25th. Here the Department of Justice will be asked to institute criminal prosecution of the election of judges on the basis of affidavits which will be sent to it from Negroes who were turned away at the polls.

A case challenging the white primary in Texas based on the 1940 election is now pending before the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, La. This case is appealed from the United States District Court in Houston, Tex., which on May 11, upheld the white primary. NAACP special counsel Thurgood Marshall is expecting that the case will be argued the first week in November in Fort Worth, Tex.

Mr. Marshall also stated: "We have already requested prosecution of election officials who have refused to permit Negroes to vote in the Democratic primary in Alabama. The NAACP will press this fight in all of the southern states until Negroes are guaranteed the right to vote, not only in the general election, but in all primaries where federal offices are involved.

Amsterdam Star-News
New York, N. Y.

Senate Votes Servicemen's Taxless Ballot

Elimination of Poll Levy May Enfranchise Many Unless House Rejects It

A terrific blow was dealt disfranchisement in the South this week when the United States Senate passed the Soldiers' Vote Bill with an amendment waiving the poll tax. It is being hailed as a big step toward eventual abolition of the vicious system whereby a fee has to be paid before a citizen is entitled to exercise his right of franchise.

Despite threats of a filibuster from Southern Congressmen, the anti-poll tax amendment was adopted by a vote of 33 to 20, and the bill was swept through with only five senators dissenting.

Spearhead of the drive to include the anti-poll tax proviso was tough Senator Claude Pepper, of Florida, the upper chamber's leader of the move to wipe out the poll tax in the eight remaining States where it is the law.

Voting against the passage of the measure were four senators from poll tax States—Byrd, of Virginia; Connelly, of Texas; George and Russell, of Georgia, as well as Radcliffe, of Maryland.

Many May Cast First Vote

Under the terms of the bill not only will thousands of disfranchised whites be permitted to vote for the first time, but Negroes will be able to vote also.

It took some smart maneuvering to whip the amended measure through the Senate, as such influential persons as Majority Leader Alben Barkley and other reactionary House Republicans, which, though headed by Administration leaders were arrayed against it. They claimed Liberal Adolph Sabath, of Illinois, is controlled by Southerners. They were afraid the bill would be beaten if it went to a vote with the anti-poll tax codicil. On the other hand, it is possible public pressure may break any bottleneck in which it appears the anti-poll tax codicil is being throttled.

Still standing between the bill and its presentation to President Roosevelt for his signature is the Majority House Rules Committee which, though headed by Adolph Sabath, of Illinois, is controlled by Southerners.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga

Army To Help Soldiers In Exercising Voting Rights

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(SNS)—All members of the armed forces will receive an opportunity to vote in an election in which they are eligible to participate, provided their voting does not interfere with their military duties, the War Department announces.

Upon request, advice and assistance will be given to personnel of the Army in completing applications and other papers necessary to insure participation in elections. No postage is required for military personnel to transmit applications or war ballots.

Although many states permit absentee voting, the qualifications of voters and the method of voting are prescribed by the laws of each state. In view of the lack of uniformity in election laws, it is necessary that each voter obtain information as to the law of his home state with reference to qualifications, procedure and the time of voting.

Recently, the War Department advised personnel of the Army desiring to vote in the coming elections to write to the Secretary of State of their home state for information relative to their right to vote under the laws of such state, and how they may vote by absentee ballot where the state laws provide for such procedure.

Commanding officers will cooperate with state commissions so that all eligible voters may be fully informed as to their rights.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

If Soldiers Vote Absentee Ballots

The proposal to have soldiers cast absentee ballots arouses a very interesting speculation—what will states like Alabama and Georgia do about their absentee Negro soldier citizens? What they have done in the past is well known. But that has been at home. Many a thing is done within the family circle which is too lacking in the social graces to be attempted before a world audience. Will Dixon and Talmadge and their administrations dare to send ballots to some of their citizens, and refuse them to others equally engaged in fighing for the life of this country and for democracy? If so, it will be in a day when the Negro has shown his worth. One of them, George Washington Carver, has put Southern agriculture on its feet. Many pay taxes.

Before emancipation, the slave when he sat up in the gallery in the white church, used to hear "There will be a kitchen in heaven for you, if you are a good slave." A Talmadge who drags out the long since dead Negro issue to win office would not be above telling Negro soldiers to fight bravely for there will be democracy in heaven for them.

But will the rest of the defenders of the American way of life think it funny or tolerable? We doubt it. Even the white soldier from Alabama who finds his flank defended stoutly by a black comrade, will not want him to wait till death for his share of democracy.

Why not let the truth be known and be done with it? All the restrictions put upon Negroes serve one purpose and only one—they give satisfaction to persons **who** enjoy seeing others suffer.

Gadsden, Ala., Times
August 3, 1942

Murray Joins The Move

The consideration of Mr. Philip Murray for the "po' working man" is one of the deeply moving manifestations now visible upon the Washington horizon.

This attitude of extreme solicitation is revealed in Mr. Murray's support of the bill under which it is proposed to outlaw the poll tax safeguards that have been erected in the South. Mr. Murray weeps copiously over the situation when some individual in the South is asked to contribute $1.50 to the support of the schools as a condition of voting, but narry a tear is visible when some poor worker is made to dig up $300 for the privelege of doing electrical wiring.

The difference in Mr. Murray's attitude is due to the fact that the state gets the $1.50 paid in support of the schools, while Mr. Murray's organization gets the $300, which sum helps to maintain him in luxury at Washington and to pay his $1,000-per-month salary.

In brief, it isn't worth $1.50 to exercise all the priveleges that free men enjoy under the United States flag, but it is worth $300 to be given permission to work under the private banner of Mr. Murray.

Now one may begin to sense how real the tears of Mr. Murray actually are as he weeps over the fate of the "po' man" who is asked to pay the small sum of $1.50 to aid the schools and when he fails to shed one measly little tear over the fate of the unhappy worker who is forced to dig up $300 in order to enjoy the constitutional privelege of making a living for himself and his family.

Reviewing the whole situation, one is inevitably led to the conclusion that Mr. Murray is far more interested in rich fees than he is in the poor man, but this does not tell the whole story. In taking his stand against the poll tax Mr. Murray is lining up with those resolute persons in Washington who are determined to make the war a mere diversion while white supremacy is knocked out in the South.

Mr. Murray knows that if the poll tax is repealed and the Negroes of the South return to voting as they did in reconstruction days, they will be in the majority in 195 counties in the Southern states and will be able to elect county officials, municipal officials and legislative representatives in these 195 counties, extending from Virginia through the Carolinas, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and on into Texas.

One might ask "What interest has Mr. Murray in trying to give the vote to these millions of colored persons and open the way for thousands of them to become sheriffs, mayors, legislators, board of education members, aldermen, judges and the like?"

There are two answers to this question. In the first place Mr. Murray is under vast obligation to the very elements in Washington that are trying to saddle racial equality upon the South, and when these elements call him to come to the aid of the cause, as it meets increasing opposition from such stalwart Southerners as Governor Dixon, of Alabama; Governor Johnson, of Mississippi; Governor Jeffries, of South Carolina; and Governor Talmadge, of Georgia, he is in no position to refuse. He is too much beholden to the crowd that has saddled racial equality upon the White House, (where Negroes are regularly entertained,) to refuse to cooperate in the attempts to saddle it upon the South.

Then there is the matter of fees. Southern white men, with their characteristic independence and sound Americanism, haven't been so hot about kicking in with rich gifts to Mr. Murray's treasure chest and he resents this. And in his resentment he would enroll millions of colored persons and he assumes that if he can help these persons get the vote he will get their membership and they can boss labor affairs where they are in the majority, just as they will be able to boss political affairs where they are in the majority. (And remember they are in the majority in 195 counties).

Thus one may begin to realize that Governor Dixon, of Alabama, did not shout his warning of the racial equality move one moment too soon or add to it one word of over-emphasis.

52e-1942

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Disfranchisement Goes Next

Disfranchisement's days are numbered. Now that Negroes are breaking through to employment, a community of interests is created that dooms the political barrier that has kept the races apart. The acceptance of Negroes in industry, though born of war, will be permanent. They can no more be driven back to limited employment, to "Negro jobs," than they could be forced back into slavery.

Though Negroes are not yet on full equality in employment, the barrier to them has been broken down in so many key points that within the next twelve months black workers will be hired wherever they have the requirements. That miracle is already foreshadowed by the action of the navy. That branch of the government never should have flouted the Constitution. Nevertheless it did until the seaman's union, sailors employed commercially, took Negroes into membership and proved they meant it by requiring ship owners to give them equal wages and working conditions. That same fellow feeling when developed in steel, in construction and other lines means the end of the color line first in labor and then in politics.

Negroes are a likeable people. We make friends. Our personality combined with self-interest will lead white workers to add our vote to theirs wherever it serves their ends. The only opposition to our voting will come from the political dynasty which depends for victory on voters staying dumb.

Already the tricksters who have kept the South one-party and fat pickings for low intelligence, sense the coming change. Speaking in Congress, March 23, Representative John E. Rankin of Mississippi did his level best to prove that Negroes' natural desires for full citizenship are fifth column activities. In tones solemn with fervid patriotism he pleaded for agitators to "stop nagging the South."

Representative Rankin and his kind are office holders that have what they want. It is fear of losing it that makes him cry out in alarm. Negroes in the picket lines along side white miners in Birmingham and along side white ship builders in Mobile doom the all-white primary and Rankin knows it. So he goes back to the rabble-rousing that once made whites blind to their own interests. To persuade them again to rob Negroes of their constitutional right to vote, to sit on juries, to live in habitations fit for human beings, Rankin says:

"There is trouble brewing right here in the District of Columbia where a few irresponsible Negroes, encouraged by a few radical whites are stirring up trouble that is likely to blaze into a race riot at any time."

"The mayor of Detroit has added fuel to the flame by placing a Negro housing project right in the center of the white section of the city."

These two statements, typical of Nazis, are Rankin's excuse for an attack on the CIO, which he says is "trying to get our election laws changed so they can organize Negro tenants and take control of southern states." That statement lets the cat out of the bag! It is change of political lineup and private life for Rankin that sets him to ranting!

APR 17 1942

A few days after Rankin said: "Anyone who attempts to create trouble throughout the South or anywhere else in the nation, is injuring our country's cause," the race question had become the most important business in the world. The relations between the people of India and the British empire is admitted to be a matter upon which the outcome of the war may turn. Politicians who defend disfranchisement refuse to settle that question over here in spite of that warning.

The Rankins are out of step with the times. If they do not see what they do to freedom and democracy, it is because they have been seeking political advantage so long that they are blinded to the effect of what they do.

Live and let live is the order of the day. Empire is of yesterday. Now that America takes up arms for the democracy to prevail everywhere, strategems to evade it must go. Disfranchisement is doomed.

APR 17 1942
Columbia [illegible] State
April 23, 1942

THEY CALL IT POLITICS

BY CARTER FIELD

Republican hopes of gains in the house and senate this fall are not based on any evidence of strength manifested in the gathering of Republican leaders at Chicago. To any old hand at watching politics that meeting was a demonstration of weakness, disunity and distrust.

It shed no light whatever on the path which the leading party of opposition in this country is treading. Those who believe that the economic policies of the New Deal are cockeyed, and must be corrected if economic and social disaster are to be averted after the war—assuming of course that we win the war—are profoundly discouraged at the lack of promise shown by the GOP leadership.

This is not just because of the war. Nor is it an indictment of individual Republican leaders. There are several Republicans, in the national picture today, who would make excellent presidents if they could be elected. The discouraging phase of the Chicago meeting is that it made this possibility of election seem so remote.

In considering this it must be remembered that the Democratic party, despite the violent differences of opinion on almost every issue within its ranks, is the majority party, while the Republican party is quite definitely the minority party. Anyone who does not concede that this is true is blind to election returns.

For the entire period from the Confederate war up to—and including—1932, the GOP was regarded by the Negroes, for the most part, as their only political friend. This fact was largely responsible for the fact that the solid South remained solid for so long. But President Roosevelt has retained the South and gained the Negro vote in the rest of the country.

Election returns from Negro wards in the big Northern cities from New York to the Pacific coast show that most of this race voted Democratic in both 1936 and 1940.; On of the most spectacular demonstrations of this is that a Democratic Negro now holds a house seat from the Chicago district which formerly sent a Negro Republican to congress.

But it is necessary only to compare census figures with election returns to see that the balance of power in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois was held by Negroes, and that, with the switching in the last ten years of the Negroes from the Republican to the Democratic party the latter is now definitely the majority party.

If this is conceded, the question then arises, how can this minority party ever win a presidential election?

It would seem that this problem should have been uppermost in the minds of every Republican leader at the recent Chicago parley. On the surface it was; everybody talked about how to win, first the war, and then the next election.

Actually, Republican candidates for the house and senate will be elected this fall on issues as widely separated and with as little national appeal as can be imagined. It will be a little bit like the position of the local Democratic candidates in 1918, When Senator David L. Walsh, then chairman of the Democratic senatorial committe, changed his arguments every time he crossed a state boundary in a stumping tour. And laughed about it afterwards.

The Democratic party certainly is headed for trouble, but the Republican leaders have not seen its periscope yet.

(Released by the Bell Syndicate, Inc.)

Houston, Miss. Post
April 2, 1942

Mr. Rankin Is Right

Congressman John Rankin, of Mississippi, made a speech in congress last week in which he scored a group of rabble rousers in and out of congress, who are seeking to change election laws in the South. The Times-Post agrees with what Mr. Rankin says, and the people of the South will applaud his courageous stand. That our readers may know what the agitators are after we are printing paragraphs from Mr. Rankin's speech. We quote:

"Mr. Speaker, the Japanese fifth columnists throughout this country must celebrate with malignant pleasure, Mussolini must smile with fiendish delight, and Hitler must chuckle with savage joy, when they read of certain radicals in the C. I. O., certain Negro agitators, and a few white demagogs going before the Judiciary Committee of the Senate and attempting to stir up race trouble throughout the Southern States by attacking our election laws.

"We are getting along pretty well with the Negroes in the South, and will continue to do so if these agitators will let us alone. The Negroes know their places and we know ours. Any man who goes around now and directly or indirectly tries to create race trouble is simply aiding and abetting the enemies of our country. The good Negroes of the South know they will be protected when any trouble arises and the bad ones know they will be looked after."

"These radicals in the C. I. O. say they are trying to get our election laws in the South changed so they can organize the Negro tenants and take control of the Southern States. They think they can send down enough carpetbaggers to make up the difference. That is one reason some of these uplifters were so anxious to get a law passed to force the American people to turn in their firearms. But we caught it in time. If they could get control of the South, the horrors of reconstruction would seem like a Sunday-school picnic in comparison. But they will never get such control. The white people of the South are on the alert, and the better elements of the Negro race refuse to join in any such movement. They know it would simply mean the death of thousands of their own race."

"My God, why do they want to stir up this trouble now when the Nation is fighting for its very existence?

"There are no more patriotic people under the shining sun than the white people of the South. They are bending every effort to aid their country in these perilous hours; their sons are in the service, thousands of them are at the front, many of them giving their lives, the last full measure of devotion, in order that our country may live, that our way of life and our sacred institutions may be perpetuated, and that the white man's civilization may not perish from the earth."

"Anyone who attempts to create race trouble throughout the South, or anywhere else in the Nation now, is injuring our country's cause, and is, wittingly or unwittingly, playing into the hands of Germany, Italy and Japan."

"What we need is unity, not dissension. If these agitators are interested in their country's welfare, let them stop nagging the South."

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

The Primary Again

A few nights ago Mr. Ransom, dean of Howard University School of Law, rightly said—"As long as one group asserts its superiority over other groups there will never be a spiritual unity." The very essence of such an impulse is utterly foreign to our Democratic principles and the American mode of life. Under such a procedure an institution of this sort must seek at all times to preserve such principles by various methods of discrimination to keep the other group at its feet. It must sponsor at all times, in season and out such practices as will enhance its superiority and at the same time contribute to misfortunes of the group over whom it asserts superiority.

JUN 2 1942

This is the principle upon which the primaries we have known in this and other southern states are founded. The result has been the disfranchisement of millions of voters. Throuh such a medium we have come to minority government and a stalemate in our political philosophies. We have sent up from the south the sorriest representation of Christendom. Such representation in the past has drawn the fires of criticism from every part of the globe. Men have even offered bills for the repeal of certain amendments touching the freedom and citizenship of other groups, thereby reducing them to slavery.

JUN 2 1942

Stephen A. Douglass said in that memorable debate with Lincoln at Ottawa these words: "I would never consent to confer the right of voting and of citizenship upon a Negro, but still I am not going to quarrel with Maine for differing with me. Let Maine take care of her own Negroes and fix her own qualifications of her voters to suit herself." While there has long since been Amendments to take care of both the citizenship and the conference of voting powers upon the Negro, the philosophy of Judge Douglass still haunts the poverty stricken regions of the lands he once exploited for his own political gains.

JUN 2 1942

We find at this very day a possibility of the Negro being made a campaign issue in the coming primary. Candidates, of course, will follow each other on the stump, and if the record of the past is a judge of the future, each will try to show himself the more intolerant toward the colored group. From this conclusion each will expect from such an appeal to the rabble an overwhelming vote of confidence.

Whether the colored group is permitted to vote in the coming primary or not, it should gird its loins and keep piling up numbers on the registration books. While it has been said that the colored group in this municipality voted in the last mayoralty election for a losing horse, it nevertheless, showed by its solidarity that its vote is a challenge and one any sensible winner would be glad to court.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Negro Vote

SEP 2 - 1942

Mark Sullivan, in his column of Friday, opposed a Senate amendment that would enable members of the armed forces to vote without paying a poll tax. Such an amendment, Mr. Sullivan suspects, would open the ballot to Negro soldiers who are disfranchised in their own States. He charges that this measure is sponsored by New Dealers, "for the sake of adding to their following some millions of persons who now do not ordinarily vote—because of unwillingness or inability or neglect to pay the poll tax, which in Georgia, for example, is one dollar, and in other States is similarly small."

In presenting this argument, Mr. Sullivan seems to lay himself open to the charge of hypocrisy. The present writer understands that, at least in many parts of the South, Negroes who are willing and able to pay the poll tax and meet other ballot requirements are still not allowed to vote. The poll tax is, in effect, a device to disfranchise the Southern Negro and thus violates the Constitution of the United States.

SEP 2 - 1942

It is probably true that the general issue of the Negro franchise in the South cannot be settled by the amendment now under consideration. Nevertheless, in fighting a war to defend democracy and the rights of minorities throughout the world, we cannot afford to deprive members of an American minority who are offering their lives for this cause of the democratic right guaranted them by our Constitution. To do so would be to arouse grave doubts, both among Negro Americans and among many of us white Americans, as to the sincerity of our motives. If we refuse to let Negro soldiers from all parts of the country enjoy the same right to the ballot as the rest of our fighting men, we shall seriously weaken our country's fighting morale. This would be a much more deadly risk than the one feared by Mr. Sullivan of driving an "entering wedge" for possible future restoration of the franchise to Southern Negroes in general.

SEP 2 - 1942

RAYMOND IMMERWAHR.
Washington, Aug. 28.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

10,000 Voters

In announcing the first meeting of the Atlanta Civic and Political League for 1942, President John Wesley Dobbs stated "The League is more determined than ever to drive hard for 10,000 Negro voters in Atlanta." We hope this is the sentiment and resolve of all the officials and members of the League. There is no question of the fact that we must register and vote in larger numbers if we are to ever enjoy the full benefits of democracy.

The democratic ideal is being challenged by powerful forces and it will be necessary for thousands of us, and perhaps millions, to give our lives before the war is over. So it is our duty to help perfect here at home what we are going to have to die for on foreign soil. The best way to achieve this goal is by mass participation in elections.

There are now approximately 3,000 colored Atlantans registered, however about 8,000 are making tax returns. This shows about 5,000 who go to the courthouse to make returns have not troubled to register. Using the present number of tax payers as a base, plus the young men just reaching 21 and the women who in most cases will not have to worry about paying any back taxes, the League should be able to reach its goal of 10,000 by March first.

Let's make an all-out effort to get 10,000 colored Atlantans eligible to vote and help perfect democracy.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Only Half Of Race Taxpayers Qualify To Vote

They Pay Poll Tax But Fail To Register

By WILLIAM A. FOWLKES, JR.

Although some five thousand Negroes in Fulton County are expected to make tax returns to the state and county during the current period, probably less than one half that number will be qualified to vote although the majority of them will be billed for the one dollar poll tax anyway.

Courthouse attaches revealed Monday that a sample check of returns made last year and this year by colored Fulton Countians showed that only about fifty per cent of those who pay taxes along with the state and county taxes take the time to walk across the hall and register for the privilege and right to vote.

Failure of colored citizens to take advantage of "what they pay for anyway" was attributed to: "Well, they just don't know!"

All males who pay property taxes of any sort to the state and county pay the one dollar yearly poll tax fee. It is on their tax bills whether they register or not. No one at the Courthouse insists or even explains that they may register and they don't do so. Women tax-payers, once registered to vote, are subject to the same cumulative tax-interest penalties as men.

Hence, thousands of dollars belonging to colored citizens literally "go to waste" as far as their use is concerned. Meanwhile, leaders "cry" for more voters when over 3,000 more are really on the lists, except for the spoken words: "I want to register to vote; I'm already a property tax-payer."

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Civic-Political League Re-elects Dobbs President

Organization Votes To Contact Taxpayers Without Qualification

By ROBERT M. RATCLIFFE

Members of the Atlanta Civic-Political League elected officers for the next 12 months at the annual meeting of the organization Tuesday and then buckled down to the task of encouraging colored tax-payers to become qualified voters.

It was pointed out by league officials that 9,000 Negroes in Atlanta are tax-payers but that less than 3,000 deem it necessary to pay the poll tax, a voting requirement.

DOBBS RE-ELECTED

John Wesley Dobbs, who organized the league in February of 1936 and has served as president since that time, was the unanimous choice of members to continue in that executive capacity.

Elected to serve with Mr. Dobbs were the Rev. M. L. King, first vice-president; C. A. Scott, second vice-president. Joseph Crawford, secretary; W. S. Holloman, treasurer; W. Y. Bell, Jr., corresponding secretary, and Mrs. C. B. Pittman, assistant secretary.

BOARD REQUIREMENT

The organization ruled that members of the board of directors (board of stretegy) would consist of members who are regular voters and have contributed $5 to the league.

The league got off to a good start when it voted to employ two people for the purpose of copying the 9,000 colored tax-payers' names from the county tax books. Representatives will then contact these people and encourage them to pay their poll tax and become qualified to vote.

In his annual report, President Dobbs said:

"I am convinced that organized efforts will alone help the plight and condition of Negroes in Atlanta and the Southland. If this principal is sound and worth laboring for, then in God's name let us get serious about it. Let us decide to dedicate a little of our time and a little of our money to this principal of citizenship and democracy, and then toward that end, let us labor and watch for the dividends to be realized in the future.

BALLOT IMPORTANT INSTRUMENT

"Let us bear in mind that the ballot is the little instrument with which the wheels of democracy are turned. Our American democracy through the fixed channels of state, county and city governments is run by and with ballots. Brains and money combined to control these ballots, but forever bear in mind that the ballot is the all important thing to be had and used."

The president pointed out that meetings were held regularly during the past 12 months; a resolution condemning the actions of Governor Talmadge in slandering the race by dismissing white educators in the University of Georgia System was printed and circulated; league members were stationed at the courthouse to help Negroes become qualified voters, and buttons advocating the voting spirit were distributed to hundreds of colored Atlantans.

Secretary Crawford in his annual report, pointed out that the expenses of the league during the past 12 months amounted to $148 and that the league still has $128 in the treasury.

Approximately $10 was contributed to the organization at the Tuesday meeting.

Daily World
Atlanta, G

We Must Show Unity

APR 12 1942

On May 27th Atlantans will be called upon to elect a chief executive for the city. The approaching election was necessitated by the recent resignation of Mayor Lecraw and it will be a general election in which all registered citizens can participate. This is an opportunity that has rarely come to us as a racial group because in normal circumstances the mayor is selected in a primary from which we are barred participation.

In normal times it is vital to our welfare to participate in the selection of those who are to hold public office but this is doubly true during war time because whether we like it or not government is going to exercise more and more control over our everyday life. Before this war is over it is very probable that government will be telling all citizens where they will work, when they will work and what they are to receive for working. Hence it is vital that we participate in the selection of those who are to represent government.

It is not only necessary for us to participate in elections but it is vital that we vote as a unit if our participation is to be effective in alleviating some of the discrimination that we have to suffer as a racial group. It was revealed the other night by one of the pioneer residents of our city how the race lost the opportunity to man the fire station at Auburn and Boulevard avenues about forty years ago because it failed to vote as a unit in an election for a mayor.

In recent years the Atlanta Civic and Political League which is headed by a group of able, sincere and unselfish citizens, has done a fine job in arousing civic and political consciousness in the race here. Therefore, we think it should be our bargaining agent with the candidates in the mayoralty election. We are going to take the lead in committing ourselves to the League's candidate. As a matter of strategy the League will not announce its candidate until the last minute. Some prominent individuals have committed themselves to the League's selection, so we are asking what other organizations will commit themselves to the League's candidate?

We must show unity if we are to obtain any appreciable results from the approaching election.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Help Perfect Democracy By Registering And Voting

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Practically the entire civilized world is at war today and the dominant issue is whether the masses of people will live as slaves under a dictatorial government or as free men under a democratic government. Of course we believe in democracy and are fighting for it.

If the democratic process is to survive the masses of people must vote. Won't you do your DUTY by getting registered and voting every time the opportunity presents itself?

If you have not done so since last June, you have until

APRIL 27

APR 12 1942

to go to the Courthouse and get registered to vote for a mayor of Atlanta on May 27th. Don't neglect YOUR DUTY!

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

ONE WORD MORE

By RALPH McGILL

HARTSFIELD'S RETURN An old, old picture may now be seen playing an engagement at the mayor's office. It is a reel run off after every election.

The usual assortment of persons who "must" see the mayor is there.

They likely didn't vote for him. The odds are but a few did. They are the inevitable crowd of "friends" who "knew all along he'd win" and who have called to talk of their invaluable assistance and how about a job?

JUN 4 - 1942



Any official who has been in public life knows how to treat with this bevy. He stays away as long as possible. Dodges as many as he can, and depends on a smart secretary, wise in the art of recognizing crackpots and phonies, to keep them away.

Bill Hartsfield won, as far as I can find out, by considerable asking, discussing and weighing of the factors involved, because the people made up their minds they didn't want an experiment in office in these times of war and stress, but did want a man who they knew had been a good mayor.

Bill Hartsfield had been an excellent mayor in his previous term, probably the best the city ever had, and perhaps this election was in the nature of an apology, too.

The result was no real reflection on those who were so completely crushed. They just happened to get in the way when the "Cannonball" came by, and the Cannonball Express is a mean train to flag.

The people didn't put out many courtesy votes or friendship votes. They voted for the man they believed can meet the demands of the period.

JUN 1942

A HEALTHY RESULT The calling of this special election had a few healthy results.

It brought to the attention of the public the fact that there is an underworld which was trying to muscle in on the election. The grand jury ought vigorously to run down the irregularities in registration. The fact that prostitutes, lately brought to town from Florida and other sections on the circuit, were registered, ought to get someone in jail. If the courts and juries fall down on that one it will be most unfortunate for the future health of the ballot box.

It also is worth noting that the underworld was not the liquor interests. No one has asked me to speak in their behalf, or suggested it. But the facts are, it was the lottery rackets, the gambling rackets and the prostitution racket. You may not think your town has those things, but it has. Just as it has two major crooked gambling joints close by in an adjoining county which use crooked cards and crooked dice in the hands of expert "switchers" and dealers. There are two or three lesser joints just as crooked and just as voracious in their preying. It seems to me that, without question, strict, legal control of liquor is proving itself and that the answer is more education and control, not another effort at prohibition. That is just my own idea and is not defense of the industry. It's just what I think.

Police ought to get tough with the rackets. There aren't so many. They also ought to give a ride to all the vermin that have come to town.

They made a play in this election and they got slapped back in such a manner as to indicate that the people want it done.

THE NEGRO VOTE It is too bad that about half the registered Negroes allowed some of their

Atlanta Ga Constitution
June 6, 1942

Jury Resumes Investigation Of Registration

Hears Large Number of Witnesses and Returns Indictment.

Resuming its investigation of alleged fraudulent registration for the last mayoralty election, the Fulton county grand jury yesterday heard a large number of witnesses and returned an indictment charging Mrs. W. S. Allen, alias Dora Batty, of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., with false swearing.

The indictment was based on findings of Ernest Brewer, of the solicitor general's office, and testimony of Mrs. A. McKenney, Fulton county registrar.

A number of sample ballots seized on Auburn avenue on the eve of the election were submitted to the grand jury and officers of the Negro Civil-Political League were among those questioned.

Mrs. Allen was alleged to have sworn falsely she had resided in Georgia a year prior to her registration for the election.

more calculating leaders to maneuver them into what was, and is, an unfortunate position.

To allow themselves to be brought into a mass meeting and have marked ballots handed them, an insult to their intelligence and character, was *unfortunate and not calculated to work for good.*

There are discriminations against the Negro and it would be surprising if he did not make mistakes in trying to use his ballot.

The Negro wants two improvements. He wants, properly, to end police brutality. Police brutality, when it occurs, is dealt out to poor Negroes and poor whites. The economic status has much to do with police brutality. That this should be stamped out goes without saying. That the chief and mayor will oppose it and punish it goes without saying. The public should support this in a positive manner.

They also would like, I am informed, to have two or three policemen of their own race to work in the Negro sections and with Negroes. They have precedents for such a request. The Talmadge administration has used at least one Negro detective on the state patrol and public opinion justified his use and work. Richmond, Va., Louisville, Ky., Charleston, S. C., and other southern cities have found the use of a few intelligent Negro policemen and detectives effective in combating crimes committed by members of their own race. Those are their two wishes. It would be interesting to know what the public reaction would be to such a suggestion should it be made.

Daily World
Atlanta, G.

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JUN 4 - 1942



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The result was no real reflection on those who were so completely crushed. They just happened to get in the way when the "Cannonball" came by, and the Cannonball Express is a mean train to flag.

The people didn't put out many courtesy votes or friendship votes. They voted for the man they believed can meet the demands of the period.

JUN 5 1942

A HEALTHY RESULT The calling of this special election had a few healthy results.

It brought to the attention of the public the fact that there is an underworld which was trying to muscle in on the election. The grand jury ought vigorously to run down the irregularities in registration. The fact that prostitutes, lately brought to town from Florida and other sections on the circuit, were registered, ought to get someone in jail. If the courts and juries fall down on that one it will be most unfortunate for the future health of the ballot box.

It also is worth noting that the underworld was not the liquor interests. No one has asked me to speak in their behalf, or suggested it. But the facts are, it was the lottery rackets, the gambling rackets and the prostitution racket. You may not think your town has those things, but it has. Just as it has two major crooked gambling joints close by in an adjoining county which use crooked cards and crooked dice in the hands of expert "switchers" and dealers. There are two or three lesser joints just as crooked and just as voracious in their preying. It seems to me that, without question, strict, legal control of liquor is proving itself and that the answer is more education and control, not another effort at prohibition. That is just my own idea and is not defense of the industry. It's just what I think.

Police ought to get tough with the rackets. There aren't so many. They also ought to give a ride to all the vermin that have come to town.

They made a play in this election and they got slapped back in such a manner as to indicate that the people want it done.

THE NEGRO VOTE It is too bad that about half the registered Negroes allowed some of their more calculating leaders to maneuver them into what was, and is, an unfortunate position.

To allow themselves to be brought into a mass meeting and have marked ballots handed them, an insult to their intelligence and character, was unfortunate and not calculated to work for good.

There are discriminations against the Negro and it would be surprising if he did not make mistakes in trying to use his ballot.

The Negro wants two improvements. He wants, properly, to end police brutality. Police brutality, when it occurs, is dealt out to poor Negroes and poor whites. The economic status has much to do with police brutality. That this should be stamped out goes without saying. That the chief and mayor will oppose it and punish it goes without saying. The public should support this in a positive manner.

They also would like, I am informed, to have two or three policemen of their own race to work in the Negro sections and with Negroes. They have precedents for such a request. The Talmadge administration has used at least one Negro detective on the state patrol and public opinion justified his use and work. Richmond, Va., Louisville, Ky., Charleston, S. C., and other southern cities have found the use of a few intelligent Negro policemen and detectives effective in combating crimes committed by members of their own race. Those are their two wishes. It would be interesting to know what the public reaction would be to such a suggestion should it be made.

Atlanta Ga. Constitution
June 6, 1942

Jury Resumes Investigation Of Registration

Hears Large Number of Witnesses and Returns Indictment.

Resuming its investigation of alleged fraudulent registration for the last mayoralty election, the Fulton county grand jury yesterday heard a large number of witnesses and returned an indictment charging Mrs. W. S. Allen, alias Dora Batty, of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., with false swearing.

The indictment was based on findings of Ernest Brewer, of the solicitor general's office, and testimony of Mrs. A. McKenney, Fulton county registrar.

A number of sample ballots seized on Auburn avenue on the eve of the election were submitted to the grand jury and officers of the Negro Civil-Political League were among those questioned.

Mrs. Allen was alleged to have sworn falsely she had resided in Georgia a year prior to her registration for the election.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Party Control In Primary

The contention has been made that the state Democratic Executive Committee has adopted rules and regulations for the September primary which may induce the federal government to nullify the entire results of that primary.

Complaint is made that the committee has deprived a citizen of his rights in refusing to allow him to qualify as a candidate for another office unless he resigns from the office he holds where the term extends beyond January 1, of this year.

Purely on academic grounds, and without any intention of discussing personalities, it may be worth while to see what the law provides.

The question comes under two heads:

Does the state Democratic Executive committee have the authority to make the rules and regulations complained of?

Can the federal government intervene to invalidate the results of the primary?

Chapter 34, Section 3201 of the Georgia Code of 1933 says:

> Every political primary election held by any political party, organization or association, for the purpose of choosing or selecting candidates for office, or the election of delegates to conventions in this state, shall be presided over and CONDUCTED IN THE MANNER AND FORM PRESCRIBED BY THE RULES OF THE POLITICAL PARTY, or organization or association, HOLDING SUCH PRIMARY ELECTIONS, by managers selected in the manner prescribed by such rules.

Section 3209 of the same chapter provides:

> The party authorities shall, in all matters not provided for in this chapter, formulate rules and regulations for holding said primary election and for making returns thereof to the proper party authorities.

General laws lay down the requirements for registering for primaries and elections, the qualifications of the voters and, broadly, for "a free ballot and a fair count," and it goes without saying that no party committee can alter those laws.

But it will be seen that the law gives the party — through its executive committee — sweeping powers for prescribing the rules and regulations as to candidates and for holding the primary. That authority seems to be supreme.

A primary is merely a show of hands within a given party. No citizen is deprived of his constitutional rights by any restrictions that may be imposed in a primary, because the real election is the general election.

Any citizen, otherwise qualified, can run for any office he pleases, in the general election, whether he has resigned from the office he holds or not.

The citations we have given should set at rest any contention that the state Democratic Executive committee has exceeded its authority in making the rules of which complaint is made.

* * *

Frankly, nobody knows what the Supreme Court of the United States would decide today on any question, but so far as the decisions now stand there are no grounds for assuming that the federal government could intervene to invalidate a primary on the ground that there were irregularities.

This is made clear by decisions with respect to the payment of poll taxes as a prerequisite to the right to vote.

In the case of Suttle vs. Breedlove, 302 U. S. 277, the supreme court said:

> The privilege of voting at state elections is not derived from the United States, BUT IS CONFERRED BY THE STATE, and, save as restrained by the Fifteenth and Nineteenth Amendments and other provisions of the Federal Constitution. THE STATE MAY CONDITION SUFFRAGES AS IT DEEMS APPROPRIATE.

If the state can pass laws and regulations fixing the qualifications of the voter it logically follows that the state can, directly or by delegating its authority to a political party, say who shall be candidates in a primary election.

The fact of the matter is that only in comparatively recent times has the state given official recognition to a primary and naturally it has left much power and authority to each political party to regulate its own affairs, so long as the election is honestly conducted.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

NEW ORLEANS NAACP PRESIDENT TELLS BIDDLE NEGROES WILL VOTE IN SEPTEMBER ELECTION

1500 Express Determination to Participate In Coming Race at Ballot Mobilization Meeting

MUST ELECT PRO-WAR OFFICIALS

By SAMUEL HOSKINS

NEW ORLEANS.—(ANP)—In a letter to Atty. Gen. Francis Biddle, Bennett B. Ross, president of the New Orleans branch NAACP, stated that Louisiana Negroes are squarely behind the war and as citizens of a democracy felt it their duty to see that the men elected in the September elections be pro-war officials.

"The members of the New Orleans NAACP plan to participate in the coming elections, both because they feel it their duty and their God-given right," he stated.

Copies of the communication were sent to Gov. Sam H. Jones and to the registrar of voters of Orleans parish, J. C. Nungesser.

Reiterating the war policy of the national NAACP, Ross declared: "The war against axis aggression into which our nation has been plunged along with Russia, China, Great Britain, and 24 other nations is a war in which minorities in this and other lands have a great stake. We in the NAACP know that the racial ideas of Nazism are directly and completely contrary to everything for which we have stood and stand today. We remember well Hitler's contemptuous reference to Negroes as half apes. We know that the destruction of all civil rights of free speech, press, and assembly; the right to worship without state interference, and the right to hold elections after free discussions, are all slated for destruction if Nazism is victorious; and that if such Nazi doctrines prevail in an America defeated by the axis, then the NAACP would itself become illegal."

He said that Negroes are squarely behind the war and especially support the ideals proclaimed by Vice President Wallace.

"Loyal as we are," he continued, "to the government and to our way of life, we feel that during these perilous times we must do all in our power to preserve our free and unhampered institutions. As elections are scheduled to take place in this state during the month of September, we feel that the men elected should, also, be squarely behind the war. As citizens of the state of Louisiana we are determined to do our bit to see that such comes to pass.

"The members of the New Orleans branch NAACP plan to participate in the coming elections, both because they feel it their duty and their God-given right," the letter said.

Ross added that as president of the organization, he urged all honest public officials to cooperate to insure that these patriotic citizens were permitted to contribute their share in this grave struggle, and to prevent Hitler-minded persons from stopping them.

Sunday he called a ballot mobilization meeting at which 1500 members and several thousand of the city's Negro population expressed a determination to vote in September.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Rogers Says:-

STATE'S RIGHT THEORY USED TO KEEP NEGROES FROM OBTAINING RIGHTS

BY J. A. ROGERS

MARK SULLIVAN, reactionary political writer for the New York Herald-Tribune, condemns the bill to abolish the soldier poll tax as "sordid politics." "The vital thing about the bill," he says, "is that it asserts authority by Congress to interfere with the qualifications of voters, which is a function of the states—to override qualifications set up by states, and substitute qualifications set up by the government at Washington. If, by the present bill, Washington is given power to override one qualification, a precedent is set up by which any and all qualifications could be overridden. The way would be wide for totalitarian government centralized at Washington."



Mr. Rogers

Did you get that about "totalitarian government?" What, we ask, can be more "totalitarian" than the poll tax states? It seems incredible that because one has not paid to vote in one of these eight states that he cannot vote, mark you, not only not for state offices, but for national offices such as President and congressman. That is, these eight states have arrogated to themselves a privilege that the other forty states do not have. These eight poll tax states are thus permitted to put their noses into national elections and dictate to the rest of the nation with impunity.

SEP 19 1942

QUOTES GEORGE OF GEORGIA

Sullivan also quotes this objection by Senator George of Georgia: 'By the passage of this bill we would subject the elections in every state insofar as they involve elections to the House of Representatives and to the Senate, or for President or Vice-President, to absolute Federal control. Federal authorities would go into every remote precinct in the country and would take charge of the elections and the election machinery, so far as the election of Federal officers was concerned."

SENATOR GEORGE talks here as if some outside nation were coming in to see that the elections are justly conducted in his state and in the South. The simple truth is that this rotten voting condition in every Southern state will not be corrected until the Federal government does step in. The only time the Negro and the poor white in the South did have a chance to vote, as citizens vote in the rest of the nation, was during the Reconstruction period when the Union Army was stationed in the South.

GREATEST WEAPON IS STATE RIGHTS

SEP 19 1942

The greatest weapon used by the South for blackjacking Negroes today is this same states' rights. For instance, in areas and jobs controlled by the Federal government in the South, the Negro has a much better chance. He is as free as a white man to go into United States parks and reservations while from most state-run ones he is barred, though he has to pay taxes to keep them up. You'll find Negroes in Federal jobs particularly the post-office and customs service, but very, very rarely in a state job. In the name of states' rights, too, the 14th and 15th Amendments were killed in eevry Southern state by a venal Supreme Court in the 1890's, and have been dead since.

WORSE even, states' right is the greatest promoter of sexual immorality and the chief foe of marriage and a decent life in this nation. For the past forty years it has been used to block a uniform marriage and divorce law. Southerners have fought this reform tooth and nail because it would mean that the Southern white man would have to recognize the Negro women as being other than an object for his lust; that if he took advantage of her, he would be held responsible and could even be made to marry her.

SEP 19 1942

A SLAVE RELIC

States' rights is a relic of colonial days when slave-holders and rival lords—proprietors in one state were in competition with those in another state, as say butchers and grocers in the same block now are. It is an anachronism that blocks the smooth running of this nation and is bound to yield, sooner or later, to the march of progress. And when it goes nothing terrible will happen. England has a centralized government and is a well-run country. So had France before Hitler.

THE Negro's greatest enemy today is states' rights. It is the one great barrier between him and his rights as a human being in the South.

SEP 19 1942

FEAR NORTHERN NEGRO VOTES

Mark Sullivan in further condemnation of the soldier poll tax vote says that if the bill passes it will be because the Democrats fear the loss of the Negro vote in the North. He quotes the Baltimore Sun thus: "Democratic Congressmen from the North seeking re-election in November told their Southern colleagues that if they blocked passage of the bill between 25 and 30 Northern Democrats—representing constituencies in which Negro votes hold the balance of power—would be defeated; that the Democrats might lose control of the House to the Republicans." This, Sullivan denounces as "sordid politics." On the contrary, I think it very good politics—politics being what it is—a dollar and a job.

THE only thing a politician respects is a vote. Ask the whipped Talmadge of Georgia about that. You might as well resist Hitler with rose-covered floats as to talk right and justice to men like Talmadge and Rankin. If now the Negro is putting the fear of God to such enemies by the use of the ballot, he is, to my thinking, using only ordinary common-sense.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

The Globe Trotter

SEP 20 1942

States' Rights Bunk

THOSE OF US who felt that under the munificence of the New Deal the ancient argument of states' rights had died a quiet, if belated death, discovered how wrong we were the other week when the bill to enfranchise the men defending America on the world's battlefronts came up for a vote.

The agility of Southern Congressmen to bring up this ancient slavery-time argument or avoid it like hot potato, depending on the expediency of the moment, has always seemed to this writer to be the most hypocritical action of a section of the country that specializes in puzzling contradictions.



MACKAY

Deathly silent have been these statesmen of the Deep South about the moldy cry of states' rights in the past few years during which the federal government has been spending lavishly to bring this impoverished section of the country up to the par of the East, the North and the West.

NOT A SINGLE PROTEST

Not a single Rankin, Hobbs, Summers, Dies or George was heard to raise his voice in even the most feeble of protests. No objection was made to the building of schools under the Federal Works Agency; none said a word about the invasion of the Works Progress Administration supplying jobless men with a means of livelihood constructing roads, erecting libraries, improving sidewalks, parks and playgrounds.

You couldn't hear a peep of protest based on the pseudo fear that the federal government was taking over the special privileges and functions of the individual states when the Reconstruction Finance Corporation was loaning millions to nearly bankrupt business; when the Public Works Administration was expending other millions erecting bridges, constructing flood control projects and huge football stadiums.

The only time that these statesmen reach back and dig up the states' rights argument is when the federal government seeks to benefit and make democracy work for ALL residents of this section.

RIGHT TO DISCRIMINATE

One is led to the inevitable conclusion that to these statesmen states rights are analagous to the right of the South to discriminate and perniciously deny Constitutionally-guaranteed rights to Negroes.

SEP 20 1942

The Southern Congressmen, all of whom had taken federal oaths that they would represent ALL the people in their respective districts, raised their hands in holy horror at the prospect visualized in the Soldiers' Absentee Ballot bill.

The prospect of thousands of black men from their districts now risking their lives for their country, actually being given a voice in the selection of those who are to run that country, to these congressmen was just too awful to even contemplate. It is a clear violation of states' rights, they loudly protested.

SEP 20 1942

A SLAP AT POLL TAXES

And to add insult to injury, the Senate inserted the amendment relieving these men of poll tax payments. Shout of "undemocratic," "unconstitutional," "totalitarian" reverberated from the throats of those who have risen to power through the undemocratic disenfranchisement of thousands of people, both white and black.

The fact that these crocodile tears were shed in vain is a clear-cut indication that we are not waging a losing battle for full democracy on the home front. It is a certain sign that the forces of reaction and native fascism are slowly, but surely being forced back.

Only the signatures of eight congressmen now stand between Congressional consideration of the federal measure completely out-lawing the insidious poll tax levied in eight Southern states. When this measure reaches the floor, no doubt you will hear a whole lot more of the states' rights bunk.

WHITE PRIMARY NEXT

After the Geyer Anti-Poll Tax Bill has been given Congressional approval, as undoubtedly it will, a move to outlaw the equally insidious white primary should be immediately in order. Until both of these barriers to full enfranchisement are removed, the Four Freedoms can never become a fact in the South.

There can be no democracy as long as laws are maneuvered to eliminate the possibility of full political expression from ALL who are to be governed. This is a sombre fact which so many of our Southern Congressmen, who orate so loudly about democracy religiously evade.

SEP 20 1942

Chairman Donald S. Nelson of the War Production Board puts the finger on how alien to what America stands for is this practice of withholding the ballot from the masses of people.

VOTING IS A RIGHT

He says: "Voting is a duty, not a privilege. It is a duty, however, that is allowed only to free men. The right to vote is, in short, what this war is all about. The first right and duty of an American citizen is to vote. That is the difference between us and our enemies."

SEP

And those who persist in withholding this precious American right of the franchise, as well as their co-conspirators who benefit by these restrictions are definitely on the wrong side in this war of of liberation — moss-covered states' rights arguments to the contrary.

That it is the solemn duty of the federal government to wipe out these democracy-destroying restrictions looms ever larger as a fact that can no longer be denied.

Daily World
Atlanta. Ga.

MARCH TO THE POLLS ON NEXT TUESDAY TO VOTE

OCT 29 1942

AN EDITORIAL

The ballot is the fountain-head of freedom, self-government and self-determination. The exercise of this sacred privilege marks the difference between a free and a slave people. It is not only a patriotic duty but it is, besides, a personal responsibility for all citizens to vote as a means of safe-guarding the victories won through the years by suffering and sacrifice.

That Negroes should vote in the approaching November 3 general elections is too obvious for questioning. For, more than other groups, they are fighting this crucial war in order to gain and preserve the freedom of the ballot box and the right of self-government which it represents. And it would be a shocking disappointment if, having won this freedom by blood and tears at the outposts of the earth, our boys were to return to find us apathetic. Apathy will not preserve this right. It will not make your voice heard in the halls of government. And neither will it elevate us from the mendicants we are to a plane of independence, influence and power.

Accordingly, therefore, all Negro citizens, even in the south, consider it their personal responsibility next Tuesday to march to the polls and cast their vote for the various candidates, no matter how ineffective they may think these votes may be. It is a good habit, in the first place. And too, it is the answer to the Nazis argument that Democracy has no meaning here for black Americans. The answer to this is now, as always, in our own hands. Get and keep the habit of voting.

Daily World
Atlanta. Ga.

DEC 16 1942

A Wise and Timely Proposal

Governor-elect Ellis Arnall promised that he would propose to the Georgia Legislature in January a lowing of legal voting age for Georgians from 21 to 18, in order that our youths serving the Armed forces might have an opportunity to vote.

"This is the day of youth', said Mr. Arnall. "The young people are well educated. They will bring into the voting precincts a great degree of intelligence and their participation in government will be very wholesome. They are going to have to remake a world after the war is over."

We think the proposal by Governor Arnall is both wise and timely. That this is the day of youth, no one can reasonably deny. Youths are being called and depended upon more in the present war than all other age groups combined. And the youth of the lands are going to be the principal leaders in the thought-process of the world we shall have following this terrible world catastrophe, brought on by our elders.

DEC 16 1942

There can be no sound reason why members of the legislature should oppose the recommendation of the governor to extend these youths the right of the franchise.

Can't Ballot For Officials Of Kentucky

Louisville, Ky.
SEP 19 1942

Meredith Says Congress Can't Void State Law

SEP 19 1942

By the Associated Press.

Frankfort, Ky., Sept. 18.—Kentucky's soldiers and sailors may vote for members of Congress, despite the state constitution's ban on absentee voting, in the opinion of Attorney General Hubert Meredith.

He declared, however, the congressional resolution authorizing service men to cast ballots by mail would not apply to state elections in Kentucky.

The United States Constitution, as Meredith interpreted it, gives Congress power to provide the "time, place and manner of holding elections" for members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, but not for state officers.

SEP 19 1942

Congress Power Limited.

Meredith declared also that Congress lacks power under the federal constitution to fix qualifications of voters. The federal constitution, he added, specifies that qualifications of those voting for United States Senate and House shall be the same as for voting for members of a state house of representatives.

While the attorney general declared only the states can fix qualifications, it was pointed out that Kentucky has no law making payment of a poll tax, imposed in some counties, a requisite for voting. Meredith added there might be some question of the validity of Congress' action, since it was done by resolution, instead of by passage of a law.

Hatcher Asked for Estimate.

The attorney general's opinion was given to Secretary of State George Glenn Hatcher after the latter received a telegram from Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Jr., asking for an estimate of the cost of providing voting facilities for Kentuckians in the armed forces.

Hatcher said that since this state has no absentee voting experience that it would be difficult to make the estimate, but added, "I'll do everything in my power to reply in time for our men to vote in November." He said he would consult other states and go to Washington, if necessary, to ascertain the cost.

Navy Prepares for Voting.

SEP 19 1942

(In Washington, the Navy announced arrangements were being worked out to make it possible for members of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard "both within and without the continental limits of the United States" to vote in the federal elections next November.

(The Army, meanwhile, gave no indication of receding from its stand that generally it would be unfeasible for soldiers overseas to vote in the next election. Secretary Stimson said the Army was prepared to administer the new law "within but not without" the continental United States.)

Robsion Signs Petition For Anti-Poll Tax Bill

By ROBERT L. RIGGS.
The Courier-Journal Washington Bureau.

Washington, Sept. 18.—Representative John M. Robsion, Barbourville, said today he had signed a petition calling upon the House to take from its judiciary committee the Geyer bill which would abolish the poll tax requirement for voters in elections for federal officers.

Mr. Robsion, a Republican, is the only member of Kentucky's nine-man delegation who has signed the discharge petition. The national committee to abolish the poll tax announced today that 212 members of the House have signed. Only six more signatures are needed to take the bill away from the judiciary committee and bring it onto the floor of the House for a vote.

SEP 19 1942

Expect Victory.

Opponents of the poll tax requirement are confident they can pass the bill, once they get it away from committee, where Chairman Hatton Sumners of Texas, a staunch defender of the poll tax, has kept it bottled up for two years.

In discussing his action in signing the discharge petition, Mr. Robsion said, "I've always opposed the poll tax as a prerequisite to the right to vote. We've had two or three fights over the question in Kentucky, and I've always opposed such requirements. All attempts to impose such requirements in Kentucky have been defeated."

An anti-poll tax bill, similar to the Geyer bill, is in a Senate committee. The bill was introduced by Senator Claude Pepper of Florida, and hearings on it had been ended by a judiciary subcommittee headed by Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney of Wyoming.

SEP 19 1942

However, the hearings are to be reopened Tuesday, under arrangements made by Senator Harry Flood Byrd of Virginia, to give officials from the eight poll tax states a chance to argue against the bill.

Neither the clerk of the Senate Judiciary Committee nor Senator Byrd's office was able to give a list of Tuesday's witnesses, but they are expected to be headed by Abram P. Staples, attorney general of Virginia, and Governor Dixon of Alabama.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

THOUSANDS REGISTER AS LA. WHITE PRIMARIES ARE SCORED

JAN 10 1942

Highest Negro Registration Recorded As a Result of Supreme Court Decision.

JAN 10 1942

NEW ORLEANS, La., Jan. 8—Following a recent decision of the United States Supreme Court giving Congress the power to regulate Louisiana primary elections because "the primary election is the basis of choice of candidates for Congressional and Senatorial offices," thousands of Negroes have registered at the polls as a result of a statewide drive to test the value of this decision in the 1942 primaries. The number of registered to vote and the majority are members of the Democratic party. Hailed for its far reaching affect against the 'white primary" laws of Louisiana and the south, the Supreme Court verdict blazes a new trial for Negro participation in the state's affairs.

JAN 10 1942

In the decision, read by Justice Stone, it is stated, "Interference with the right to vote in the Democratic primary in the Congressional primary in the Second Congressional District for Congress is thus a matter of law and in fact an interference with the effective choice of voters at the only stage of the election procedure when their choice is of significance, since it is the only stage when such interference could have any practical effect on the ultimate results."

The decision also specifically states that it is a criminal offense for anyone to interfere with a qualified voter who cast their ballots at a state primary election.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

THOUSANDS ARE STRUCK FROM POLL REGISTER

FEB 7 - 1942

Action Seen As Effort To Nullify Negro Bloc In New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS, La. — Thousands of Negro Democrats were not permitted to vote in the recent city primary election because their names had been scratched from the eligible rolls by Vic Wogan, registrar of voters.

Negroes who flocked to the polls in last week's election for city officials were told by election booth commissioners that their names had been scratched, advising that they confer with the registrar of voters upon asking reasons for 'scratching.'

FEB 7 - 1942

The election was one of the most hectic of the century, culminating a bitter fight between the 'Old Regular' city political machine and the state faction headed by Governor Sam Jones.

Herve Racvitch headed the Jones ticket and was completely swamped by the Old Regular forces headed by Mayor Robert S. Maestri The Old Regulars were supported by former Senator James A. Noe and District Attorney J. Bernard Cooks, who were stalwarts in the 1940 election of Jones.

It was a foregone conclusion that the Negro block of voters would have been cast for the Old Regular ticket, and that is supposed to be reason for the state faction ordering the scratching of them from the eligible rolls.

Hundreds of them flocked to the registrar's office to inquire the reasons for the wholesale scratching of their names, only to be told that "this is a white man's primary and Negroes can't vote." Encouragement was given when contact was made with some of the Old Regular leaders and United States federal officials.

FEB 7 - 1942

Negro leaders are manipulating a new movement to force the issue to a definite conclusion, charging that the "scratch" orgy is taxation without representation. The new movement will include the non-payment of state property taxes for at least one year and the witholding of city taxes for two years.

A statewide move is afoot to encourage participation of Negroes in the congressional primaries this year. A recent supreme court decision allows that it is a criminal offense to exclude qualified voters from participation in state Democratic primaries for congressional officers.

This year's election will bring to the public the election of United States senators and congressmen. Among these will be Allen J. Ellendor, junior United States senator from Louisiana who was prominent in the 1940 state campaign in his radio abuse of Negroes.

He dared G-Man Rogge, who was investigating state officials in the historic Louisiana scandals, to interfere in behalf of Negro rights. Ellander is the same senator that Walter White dared to submit himself to a blood test, charging that Ellender was more of a Negro than he, White.

FEB 7 - 1942

Hundreds of affidavits from Negroes refused the opportunity to vote in the city primary have been secured and legal advisers are proceeding to go into court on the issue. At the same time Negro property owners will be organized in a city wide move to withhold property taxes this year.

NAMES SCRATCHED FROM VOTING LIST IN CITY ELECTION

Pittsburgh Courier

NEW ORLEANS, La., Feb. 5—Thousands of Negro Democrats were not permitted to vote in the recent city primary election because their names had been scratched from the eligible roles by Vic Wogan, registrar of voters and "tool" of the State political holding of city taxes for two years.

A state-wide move is afoot to encourage participation of Negroes in the Congressional primaries this year. A recent Supreme Court decision allows that it is a criminal offense to exclude qualified voters from participation in state democratic primaries for Congressional officers. This year's election will bring to the public the election of United States Senators and Congressmen. Among these will be Allen J. Ellender, junior United States Senator from Louisiana, who was prominent in the 1940 state campaign in his radio abuse of Negroes. He dared G-Man Rogge, who was investigating state officials in the historic Louisiana scandals, to interfere in behalf of Negro rights. Ellender is the same Senator that Walter White dared to submit himself to a blood test, charging that Ellender was more of a Negro than he, White.

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FEB 7 - 1942

NEGROES WERE FOR OLD REGULARS

It was a foregone conclusion that the Negro block votes would have been cast for the Old Regular ticket, and that presupposed as the reason for the State faction ordering the scratching of them from the eligible roles.

Hundreds of them flocked to the registrar's office to inquire of the reasons for the wholesale scratching of their names, only to be told that "this is a white man's primary and Negroes can't vote."

TO CONTINUE FIGHT

Negro leaders are manipulating a new movement to force the issue a definite conclusion, charging that the "scratch" orgy is taxation without representation. The new movement will include the nonpayment of state property taxes for at least one year and the with-

52e-1942

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

POLL RIGHTS FIGHT SPURRED IN LOUISIANA

APR 4 - 1942

Non-Citizen Admits Years Of Participation In State Primaries

NEW ORLEANS, La. — It was disclosed here last week that a German enemy alien had been allowed to vote in the Democratic primary elections of the state and city over several years while Negro citizens have been consistently barred from participation.

Fred Pieper, regional director of the CIO, upon exposure that he has been in the United States since 1911 without becoming a citizen, admitted that he had voted in each Democratic state election since coming to the state and that he was not ashamed of his German birth.

APR 4 - 1942

Political preference to enemy aliens over Negroes in this state in the last few days aroused a renewed campaign by Negroes for a showdown on the injustices and prejudices that are sabotaging democracy.

Negro leaders throughout the state are open in their expressions of determination to declare and fight for an all out drive on un-American practices and to expose them to the federal government immediately upon discovery.

Effective preparations are being made to force the vote issue to a conclusive showdown during the next state primary election and to leave no stone unturned in exposing state and city politicians whose activities smack of un-Americanism in any degree.

During the recent city Democratic primary election all Negroes names were scratched from the rolls under orders of Gov. Sam Jones head of the state political machine while enemy aliens were allowed to participate.

A few weeks later the governor endorsed the appointment of a German alien to an important government post in the state. It was recalled that last May the governor refused to consider Negroes for the committee on celebration of "I Am An American" day, while a certain phase of the program was headed by the same German alien.

52e-1942

Negro Leader Seeks Detroit Council Post

Daily Worker, N.Y., N.Y.

SEP 1 - 1942

DETROIT, Aug. 31.—Hayward C. Mabon, chairman of the Negro Commission of the Michigan Communist Party will be a candidate in the Sept. 15 primary election for City Council. Nine candidates have filed for the post created by the recent death of John W. Smith Council President. Mr. Maben is the only Negro.

SEP 1 - 1942

Maben is a well-known leader of the Negro people in Detroit and for a number of years has participated in all of the struggles engaged in by the workers in the auto city. He filed when all other major parties failed to advance the candidacy of a representative of the 200,000 Negro people.

SEP 1 - 1942

He will run on a platform for a second front now and full war mobilization.

52e-1942
Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

DEMOCRATS WARNED OF 'ENCROACHMENTS'

Mississippians Watch Plan Of Arkansas Negroes

'RIGHTS ARE GUARANTEED'

Chairman Holmes Of Party's Central Committee Condemns Federal Control Of Elections And Schools

By KENNETH TOLER
From The Commercial Appeal Jackson, Mississippi, Bureau

JACKSON, Miss., July 27.—Taking cognizance of the Arkansas situation in which negro Democrats plan to vote in Tuesday's party primary, Chairman Herbert Holmes of the Mississippi Democratic Executive Committee in session here Monday warned of threatened Federal encroachment of "these political and social rights guaranteed to us as a sovereign state."

Chairman Holmes, in his "personal observations" to the committee, said "we must, as representatives of the Democratic Party in Mississippi, make every sacrifice necessary to preserve to this Nation that freedom for which our forefathers fought, bled and died," but "it would be unfortunate for us to surrender to the Federal Government the control of our elections . . . and the control of supervision of our public school system."

'Opening Wedge"

The Tate County attorney said the "opening wedge" to surrender of the control over elections to the Federal Government was through the proposed abolition of the poll tax, and the surrender of the schools would be through "the appropriation of Federal funds, which would carry with it the right of supervision, directing how and on which it should be used."

"Our sister state of Arkansas is going to have an awful serious time tomorrow by forgetting these two things," he said.

Declaring that "we don't need the Federal Government to tell us who shall vote in our primary elections," Chairman Holmes said "God forbid, that we of the South should ever surrender our heritage for a money consideration or that our leaders should surrender these sacred and valuable rights for a 'mess of porridge'."

E. T. (Scrap) Woolfolk, member of the committee from Tunica and leader in the Legislature, spoke against abolition of the poll tax and acceptance by the state of Federal funds for schools.

Ballot Prepared

The Executive Committee was in session to prepare the ballot for the Aug. 25 Democratic primary, and to declare candiates without opposition the party nominees. There were 23 candidates declared nominees without opposition, and contests announced for 14 other offices in contest.

"There are some matters that I feel it important to bring to your attention as representative leaders of democracy in your respective districts," Chairman Holmes told the members, who explained that his views were personal and not to be accepted as representing those of the committee as a whole.

"Democracy will work and has worked in the United States in times of peace and has and will help to preserve peace; but when a Nation of Democrats is forced into war, they are at once forced to surrender. for the duration, many of the sacred ideals of democracy," he said.

"We must and should submit to dictatorship in times of war and lay aside our democracy until that war is over. Our chief dictator in war is the commander-in-chief, the President, who gives the orders and they are passed on to us through his lieutenants. As patriotic, loyal American citizens, it is our duty and we should obey those orders, even sacrificing many of our personal rights guaranteed to us by a democratic form of government. This is necessary in order for us to preserve our democracy and our way of life.

'Should Lead Way'

"We as representatives of the Democratic Party in Mississippi, should lead the way and I know you have and will, as patriotic leaders, do all you can and make every sacrifice necessary to preserve to this Nation that freedom for which our forefathers fought, bled and died.

"However," Chairman Holmes added, "while making this sacrifice gladly and willingly, yet there are some things that we of the South must not surrender, if we are to preserve those political and social rights guaranteed to us as a sovereign state. We believe in state rights in time of peace and what rights we surrender, let them be only for the duration. The Federal Government will not take these rights away from us except by our own consent. . . .

"It would be unfortunate for us to surrender to the Federal Government the control of our elections, and the entering wedge on this is the abolition of the poll tax, that safeguard that our fathers placed in our Constitution as Section 243. It needs no argument for you to see the dangers, if we did not have this bulwark of safety.

"We should never surrender to the Federal Government the control of supervision of our public school system, and the entering wedge on this is the appropriation of Federal funds, which would carry with it the right of supervision, directing how and on whom it should be used. It needs no argument for you to see the dangers there.

"Mess of Porridge"

"We can," the chairman continued, "will and have placed at the disposal of our Government our time, our talents, all of our material resources, yea even our very lives, but for the sake of our children and our children's children, God forbid, that we of the South should ever surrender our heritage for a money consideration or that our leaders should surrender these sacred and valuable rights for a 'mess of porridge'."

Two vacancies on the committee due to deaths were filled with City Judge H. H. Fuller of Laurel succeeding A. B. Shauber, and Garland Lyell of Jackson, replacing the veteran Col. Sidney McLaurin.

On motion of Senator Evon Ford of Taylorsville, the committee offered its services to men in the armed forces in receiving absentee voter ballots.

Chairman Holmes said the next meeting of the committee would be Sept. 2 for a canvas of the Aug. 25 ballots, and to designate nominees who receive a majority vote and to determine those in a runoff three weeks later.

The ballot, as prepared by Hugh Wood of Hazlehurst, acting secretary, and Miss Catherine Powell of Yazoo City, assistant secretary, was adopted and will be sent to the 82 counties as a guide.

Declared nominees without necessity of a contest were Justice W. G. Roberds of West Point, member of the Supreme Court; Representative Jamie Whitten of the Second Congressional District; Representative W. M. Whittington of the Third Congressional District, eight of the 11 Chancery Court judges and 12 of the 17 Circuit Court districts.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Election Officials Deny Mississippi Negroes Vote In Democratic Primary

SEP 4 - 1942

JACKSON, Miss.—Acting upon the recent decision of the United States Supreme Court, in which the court held that no citizen, regardless of race, or color could be denied the right to vote in a state primary where candidates were seeking election to a fedeal office a number of local Negro citizens, duly qualified electors, went to the polls and made an effort to vote in the State Democratic primary, Tuesday, August 25th, in which candidates were seeking election to the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States Congress.

During the campaign, which saw Hon. Jim Eastland, young delta planter, and Hon. Wall Doxey, Junior United States Senator, in the run-off for the State's Junior United States Senator, and a number of Congressman elected, practically all of the candidates in the August 25th voting resorted to the issues of Carpet Days in raising the old time question of "social equality" and the Negro and Northern Yankee attempts to dominate the financial, industrial and economic life of the state.

Radio listeners will long remember the almost frantic effort by local stations to drown out and cut-off the voice of the Senior U S. Senator, Theodore G. Bilbo, campaigning on behalf of the candidacy of Senator Wall Doxey, in a speech in Poindexter Park here Friday night, August 21st, when he charged Drew Pearson and Pennsylvania Yankees with being "niggers lovers. "

Hon. Jim Eastland, perhaps in self-defense, after he had been charged with working only Negroes on his delta plantations, was quoted in the daily press with references to Negroes and white working together in offices in Washington, and the Negroes place as being on the farm, while Congressman Dan McGee asked to be reelected to be able to stand ground against the efforts now being made to give the Negro social equality.

In one ward here, Jack Harvey Young, United States letter carrier, went to the polling place and requested a ballot, but was informed by the election officers that he had not been authorized to allow Negroes to vote in the elections, and in order to vote he would have to have a statement from the Sheriff of the Hinds County Court Mrs. A. E. Holly, for years a teacher in the city, after having been directed to several different polling places, was finally informed that Negroes were not allowed to vote in the white Mississippi Democratic Prim

SEP 4 - 1942

John W. Dixon and Robert L Smith, also United States letter carriers, were also among those who were refused ballots.

According to reports no efforts were made at any of the polling places to intimidate or frighten those who sought to vote, bue election officials without show of malice explained that under the existing interpretation of the Democratic Primary Law in the state, and in line with their instructions, they could not allow Negroes to vote.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, PA.

MISS. ELECTION LAW BANS WRITE-IN VOTE

SEP 26 1942

JACKSON, Miss., Sept. 24—(By ANP) — Mississippi elections laws prohibit write-in votes, such as those proposed here before both the National Baptist conventions at Chicago and Memphis last week by Edgar Brown in behalf of the Rev. James Arthur Parsons of Tupelo, Miss., Secretary of State Walker Wood said Friday.

The Brown plan is to have the 12,000 Negro soldiers from the Tupelo section who were given the ballot because of congressional action write in the name of Rev. Parsons for Congress. This is the district of Rep, John Rankin, Negrophobist, and Brown feels that enough soldier votes can be mustered to chase the Mississippian out of Congress.

SEP 26 1942

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Harlem Disfranchisement

What appears to Harlem as a bi-partisan conspiracy is the failure of the State of New York to have reapportioned its congressional districts in the last twenty-five years. Everything looks yellow to a jaundiced eye. Maybe Harlem is somewhat color blind. The facts, however, justify their suspicion.

FEB 7 1942

This session of the Legislature, for instance, finds its hands tied by the delay of local authorities in furnishing it the vital statistics of their election districts. When Republican Governors with Democratic Legislatures have been in, the Governors vetoed the Legislature's measures which favored the New York City Democratic gerrymander at the expense of the Republican upstate districts. When Democratic Governors and Republican Legislatures have been in, the result for the reverse reason has been the same. The net result of it all has been that Harlem has been so geographically divided that it has been unable to elect a Congressman or a State Senator of its own. That in itself might not have been so grossly unfair, if the upper Harlem district had not grown in population out of all proportion to all the other congressional districts of New York County. The Twenty-first Congressional District, reaching from 125th Street to Spuyten Duyvil at the end of Manhattan is larger in population and voters than the next largest and smallest district and is larger in the same way than the three smallest congressional districts of Manhattan. Both of the major political parties have profited at the expense of Harlem.

We ask the Legislature to stop this political disfranchisement of Harlem. This great city within the greater city should hold guilty at the next election those officials at Albany who do not fight and stop this monstrous political crime against this great community.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Jailed for Bar On Negro Vote

MAR 1 8 1942

(Special to the Daily Worker)

ASHEVILLE, N. C., March 17. — The long struggle for the right to vote for Negroes took a forward step here today with the announcement of the arrest of Arthur Patton, a West Asheville registrar charged with refusing to register three Negro citizens "without proper cause."

Announcement of the arrest was made by U. S. District Attorney Lamar Caudle, who revealed, that Patton was accused of violating the Federal Civil Rights Statute.

The local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has been conducting a two year campaign for the arrest of Patton, who is specifically charged with forcing three Negro citizens to read a paragrph from the U. S. Constitution and then write it down from memory as a registration requirement.

MAR 1 8 1942

The three Negro residents of Asheville who were denied the right to register are Rev. M. E. Eichelberger, S. L. Thomas and S. M. Felder.

Durham, N. C., Morning Herald
May 7, 1942

Negro Democrats Here To Meet Friday Night

Frederick K. Watkins, president of the United Negro Democratic Association for North Carolina, has returned to Durham following an official visit to a number of clubs in the State. During his tour Watkins visited Rocky Mount, Tarboro, Goldsboro, Wilmington, Charlotte, Salisbury, Winston-Salem, and Greensboro and reported being well pleased with work being done by the clubs.

Watkins has called a meeting of Durham Negro Democrats for Friday night at 8 o'clock at the Biltmore Hotel.

VOTE TEST TOO RIGID; MUST ANSWER TO U. S.

Pittsburgh Courier

APR 4 1942

52e NC

Pittsburgh, Pa.

Government Holds White Registrar in Asheville.

ASHEVILLE, N.C. April 2—Attorney General Francis Biddle and the United States Government cracked down this week on a white registrar for the alleged discriminatory tactics he instituted against qualified Negro voters in election here recently.

Lamar Caudle, United States district attorney for the western North Carolina district, announced last week that Arthur Patton, registrar for Precinct 21, in West Ashville, was arrested on charges that he denied Negroes the right to vote in violation of the Federal Civil Rights statute.

The arrest is one of the most significant ever made in the south concerning the voting statue, and is attracting intense interest.

The arrest was authorized by Attorney General Francis Biddle and ordered on a complaint filed by Mr. Caudle after an extended investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

According to the charges, Patton, in his capacity as registrar, made an arbitrary requirement of Negro registrants that they read a paragraph from a book, then repeat it orally and write it from memory. No such requirement were made of white registrants.

District Attorney Caudle said that evidence uncovered by the FBI linked Patton with William Dudley Pelley, Silver Shirt leader of Asheville, whose organization advocated, among other things, curtailment of privileges of Jewish people and Negroes.

The requirements placed upon Negro voters were excessive, the government will charge.

The three Negroes said to have been denied the right to registrar are Rev. M. E. Eichelburger, S. L. Thomas and S. M. Felder, all citizens of Buncombe county. They were required to read paragraphs from the Constitution, memorize and reduce to writing all within a period of three to five minutes.

The Attorney General authorized the action against Patton on the recommendation of Wendell Berge, assistant attorney general in charge of the criminal division. The case will probably come to trial in May. The fine for such violation is $1,000 or punishable by one year in jail, or both.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Try Official Who Wouldn't Register Negroes

MAY 2 4 1942

Evidence Is Presented By Federal Bureau

ASHEVILLE, N. C.—(ANP)—Trial of Arthur Patton, white, of West Asheville, a registrar in the 1940 elections here, began Friday in United States District court, on the charge that he had failed to register five colored citizens of the community.

MAY 2 4 1942

The plantiff: Rev. M. C. Eichelberger, S. L. Thomas, William Blye, Benjamin Dixon, and S. M. Felder. All are prominent Asheville residents. Judge E. Yates Webb, presiding, in charging the jury, directed that it must find that Patton wilfully prevented the Negroes from registering in order to find him guilty. Incidentally, the charge is only a misdemeanor.

The five men testified Patton refused to register them when they could not commit to memory and write out within five minutes a paragraph from the North Carolina constitution. They sought to register shortly before the general election of 1940. Patton said he did not require them to do so, but merely asked them if they could, and they left.

The indictment against Patton was worked up by the Federal Bureau of Investigation under orders of Robert Jackson, former attorney general of the United States and now a member of the United States Supreme court.

The NAACP took a hand in pushing of the case, and when Jackson was succeeded by Atty. Gen. Biddle, he orddered the case prosecuted.

Columbia, S. C. State
May 21, 1942

Asheville Man Is Acquitted in Negro Vote Case

Asheville, N. C. May 20—(AP)—Arthur W. Patton, of West Asheville, was found not guilty by a jury on a charge of violating the election laws, members of a naturalization class received their final citizenship papers, and several cases were disposed of before Judge E. Yates Webb adjourned the May term of US district court here this afternoon.

The jury received the Patton case at 4:30 Monday afternoon and deliberated until court adjourned for the day. They deliberated yesterday morning and reported themselves as apparently hopelessly deadlocked when court adjourned yesterday afternoon, but Judge Webb instructed them to return to court today prepared to consider the case further. They reached their decision in a short time today.

Patton was charged with having refused to permit members of the Negro race to register for the 1940 election.

Columbia S C State
May 20, 1942

North Carolina Negro Vote Case Jury Deadlocked

Asheville, N. C., May 19—(AP)—After the jury in United States court for the Western district of North Carolina reported twice during the morning members were apparently hopelessly deadlocked at a count of ten to two in the case of Arthur W. Patton of West Asheville, Judge E. T. Yates Webb recessed court early this afternoon until tomorrow and told the jurors he will expect them to deliberate further tomorrow.

Patton, one of the registrars in the 1940 election, was charged with violating federal election laws by allegedly refusing to register five Negroes. Trial of the case started yesterday and went to the jury at 4:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon and resumed their deliberation this morning.

After the foreman reported the body as apparently hopelessly deadlocked, J. Y. Jordan, representing Mr. Patton, told Judge Webb he believed the government and the defendant should be spared the expense of another trial and suggested that the majority vote of the jury be accepted. District Attorney T. Lamar Caudle said the suggestion was very unusual and that he did not believe he had the authority to make such an agreement.

The Negroes, the Rev. M. C. Eichelberger, S. L. Thomas, William Blye, Bejamin Dixon and S. M. Felder, testified that Patton refused to register them to vote when they could not committ to memory and write out within five minutes a paragraph from the North Carolina constitution.

Patton said he did not require them to memorize the paragraph but merely asked them if they could, and they left without answering.

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

Court Bares Trickery To Rob Negro of Vote

MAY 29 1942

(Special to the Daily Worker)

ASHEVILLE, N. C., May 28.—A North Carolina federal district court has whitewashed an election official who refused to permit Negroes to vote but the case, the first of its kind in the deep South in a generation, succeeded in focusing attention on the devices used to deprive Negro citizens of their democratic right to the ballot.

The all-white jury which found Arthur Patton, election registrar of the 21st precinct here, "not guilty" deliberated two days before reaching its decision.

Witnesses who testified against the white election official included Benjamin Dixon, a Pullcan car porter; Emanuel Felder, an employe of the Veterans Hospital near here; S. L. Thomas and William Blythe.

All testified that Patton required them to read a long passage from a book, took the book away from them and ordered them to write the entire passage from memory. When all failed to accomplish the impossible task, Patton declared that they were "illiterate."

MAY 29 1942

SOLDIER BARRED

Another witness who appeared but whom District Judge E. Yates Webb refused to allow to testify was Nathaniel Felder, a 24-year-old solier and son of Emanuel Felder. The Army had given Private Felder leave to attend the trial and testify to corroborate his father's testimony.

L. C. McBride, an investigator for the U.S. Department of Justice which prepared the case against Patton, testified that he had received a sworn statement from Patton which completely corroborated the testimony of the witnesses against the election official. Judge Webb refused to let him read the statement.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Try Polls Official on Grounds He Refused to Register Negroes

MAY 29 1942

ASHVILLE, N. C. — (ANP) — Trial of Arthur Patton, white, of West Ashville, a registrar in the 1940 elections here, began Monday in United States District court, on the charge that he had failed to register five colored citizens of the community.

The plaintiffs: Rev. M. C. Eichelberger, S. L. Thomas, William Blye, Benjamin Dixon and S. M. Felder. All are prominent Ashville residents. Judge E. Yates Webb, presiding, in charging the jury, directed that it must find that Patton wilfully prevented the Negroes from registering in order to find him guilty. Incidentally, the charge is only a misdemeanor.

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The five men testified Patton refused to register them when they could not commit to memory and write out within given minutes a paragraph from the North Carolina constitution. They sought to register shortly before the general election of 1940. Patton said he did not require them to do so, but merely asked them if they could, and they left.

MAY 29 1942

The indictment against Patton was worked up by the Federal Bureau of Investigation under orders of Robert Jackson, former attorney general of the United States and now a member of the United States Supreme court.

The NAACP took a hand in pushing of the case, and when Jackson was succeeded by Atty. Gen. Biddle, he ordered the case prosecuted.

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.

Dixie Jurist Smothers FBI Man's Testimony

JUN 6 1942

ASHEVILLE, N. C.—Confronted with an FBI investigator and a uniformed U. S. soldier, both prepared to testify for the prosecution, Federal Judge E. Yates Webb refused to allow them to take the stand here in a case against an election official accused of refusing to allow Negroes to vote in his precinct. The official, Arthur Patton, was acquitted by an all-white jury in a two-day trial. Benjamin Dixon, pullman porter; Emanuel Felder, hospital employe; S. L. Thomas and William Blythe, other witnesses for the prosecution, all testified that Patton made them read long passages from a book when they appeared to vote, took the book away and demanded that they write the complete passage from memory. When each of them proved unable to do this Patton, they charged, declared them "illiterate" and refused them ballots.

L. C. McBride, FBI investigator, who had prepared the case against Patton, appeared in court with a sworn statement from Patton himself in which the election official allegedly corroborated the testimony of the preceding witnesses. Judge Webb refused to let McBride offer the statement as evidence.

JUN 6 1942

When Nathaniel Felder, a soldier and son of one of the original witnesses, also appeared to support his father's testimony, the court denied him the witness stand also.

Attempts to learn whether the Department of Justice plans any action against the court for its refusal to allow Agent McBride to testify have been unsuccessful.

52e-1942
Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

OKLAHOMA

Effective Ballot Strategy

With the time for filing for public office closed, Negroes of the state should begin casting about determining who among the major candidates should receive the majority of the more than 35,000 Negro votes to be cast in the Democratic primary. The Black Dispatch desires to compliment the action of the Negro Democratic Association for adopting a platform sometime ago, and the fact that two out of the four Democratic candidates for governor have publicly given recognition to this platform fully justifies the effort.

MAY 16 1942

The other candidates now in the race may yet address themselves to that platform, and the Black Dispatch suggests that a few days be given to await any further recognition that may be given to the declared objectives of the Negro Democratic Association.

The Black Dispatch has taken the position that no effort should be made to align with any political candidate until after the filing period has closed and until all candidates for governor have had opportunity to express themselves. Unless this procedure is followed there would of course be no justification or common sense in preparing a platform. The platform has for its purpose drawing out the candidates on such subjects as are considered of vital importance to the Negro Democratic Association. To jump behind any particular candidate before this procedure has been followed through would be inexcusable.

In the judgment of the Black Dispatch the Negro Democrats have been a little short-sighted in their approach to the congressional races. For instance all of our troubles in national defense spring from appointees named by senators and congressmen of this state. The Oklahoma delegation in congress can tell the federal appointees how to "jump hoop" if they want to, and this is a fine period to lay before the Oklahoma delegation such justifiable complaints as have developed with respect to NYA, WPA, FHA, and all of the various federal setups operating in Oklahoma.

MAY 16 1942

The Black Dispatch believes that all of the congressmen and the candidates for the senate should express themselves on the question of defense training for Negroes. Union labor has dictated a policy in Oklahoma inimical to the interests of the 200,000 Negro citizens who form an important part of the state's population. Now is the time to make your ballot count and find out whether or not we are going to have an "all-out" defense effort or a Jim Crow defense effort. Patriotic congressmen and senators will see that Negroes are integrated fully into national defense. This is the time to make your vote count. It may be possible to strike a bargain with the "ins" and it might more profitably be best to line up with the "outs." Let's give this a little thought before we become to ardent in wooing a particular candidate and his cause.

The Black Dispatch believes this year in every county in the state the cue should be taken from the Negro Democratic Association. Instead of allowing some few individuals to dictate a course in your county an entirely different action should be taken. What is good for the state is good for the county and for city government. Why would it not be a fine idea to call a meeting now and settle on what is desirable for Negroes in your county? Adopt a platform and submit it to the various county candidates. You'll find that this sort of precedure will instantly rid the community of the bootblacks, porters and the under-world crowd who usually take over the election machinery at voting time.

MAY 16 1942

There is more harmony today among the Negro Democrats of the state than there has been in the past 15 years. If the procedure we observe developing continues, we will in a few more years have an effective voting strength which will reap a rich harvest in citizenship rights. But it is not enough to organize the state. From the precinct on up, effort should be made to follow a plan which will unite the entire Negro community behind a worth while program of advancement.

52e- 1942

Poll Tax Fight Up to Public

P.M. Daily

N.Y., N.Y. OCT 15 1942

PM's Bureau

WASHINGTON, Oct. 15.—The National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax is rallying public sentiment for a demand that the Senate vote on the Pepper-Geyer anti-poll tax bill before the elections next month.

Only strong and overwhelming support from the general public can put the drive across. It took a year and a half to force the bill to a vote in the House, although in the end the vote for it was more than 3-1. In the Senate there is less than three weeks to act if the bill is to be passed before election.

The bill is still in the Judiciary Committee in the Senate. That committee is scheduled to take it up Monday, but there is no assurance it will act at that time unless men and women everywhere make it clear that they want it done.

Labor and liberal organizations are lining up solidly behind the drive to get quick action in the Senate Committee and the Senate. But they need support from the average citizens who vote and believe that average citizens in the South should have the vote.

OCT 15 1942

Where Opposition Centers

The big obstacle to the anti-poll tax bill in the Senate is indifference on the part of the majority, and strong opposition from a Southern minority which is elected by poll tax votes. The minority will win unless the majority is made to realize that the public wants the bill to go through.

The attitude of Chairman Frederick Van Nuys (D., Ind.) of the Senate Judiciary Committee is typical. He has taken no position on the bill publicly. He says the question in his committee is whether the poll tax should be outlawed by Congressional action or by a constitutional amendment, that the committee is divided and that there is strong sentiment on both sides.

There are many other Senators who are uncommitted, and who will take no position on the measure until they are forced to do so. It is the same story as in the House. But if the bill is forced to a vote, it probably would get the same overwhelming approval.

Telegraph, Write Senators

The National Committee in charge of the anti-poll tax drive is asking the public to write and telegraph to all Senators to demand action on the bill. It has no faith in the constitutional amendment proposal because, with the Southern states opposed, it would be almost impossible to get the necessary ratification from three-fourths of the States.

OCT 15 1942

The public is being urged particularly to send messages of support to members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. In addition to Van Nuys, members of that Committee from non-poll tax States are:

- Pat McCarran of Nevada.
- Carl A. Hatch of New Mexico.
- Joseph C. O'Mahoney of Wyoming.
- James H. Hughes of Delaware.
- Albert B. Chandler of Kentucky.
- William H. Smathers of New Jersey.
- Harley M. Kilgore of West Virginia.
- Abe Murdock of Utah.
- Ernest W. McFarland of Arizona.
- George W. Norris of Nebraska.
- Warren R. Austin of Vermont.
- John A. Danaher of Connecticut.
- Alexander Wiley of Wisconsin.
- William Langer of North Dakota.
- Harold H. Burton of Ohio.

Mail can be addressed to them at the Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.

Birmingham Age-Herald

THIS MORNING

by JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES, II

OCT 19 1942

"Bid me discourse, I will enchant thine ear."

Enchanting to one pair of ears was the discourse Gov.-Nominate Chauncey Sparks delivered to the State Chamber of Commerce convention here Thursday afternoon. The gentleman into whose hands is to be entrusted so much of this state's process through the coming four years of unequaled importance and decision gave evidence of knowing that "the world do move." Frankly, he surprised this column with the forward-looking in his point of view, the appreciation of new things here to stay, the ability to understand that saving the capitalist system of free enterprise in which most of us still believe is not a mere matter of taking cracks at the "mounting bureaucracy of the federal government." Judge Sparks made it plain that the threat to free enterprise is not only in the socialistic tendencies of government but equally in the tendency of industry not to be social-minded enough to make the free system work.

Birmingham

Listening to him we seemed to gather that things may have been happening to Chauncey Sparks. When he said that the economics of 1929 were gone forever he shed no tears. That is important. Gone forever, too, let us believe, are the economics of 1939. The anarchy of 1929, the hate and socialism of 1939, can have no place in our American future if it is to be really American in the sense of a political and economic liberty indispensible each to the other and making together the thing we call democracy.

* * *

No 1929, ever again! No 1939, ever again—that's different! We need one more chance at 1919. One more chance to organize our country and world on the basic natural principle of umpired competition which was Woodrow Wilson's ideal at home and abroad. One more chance to save free enterprise by knowing what free enterprise is, what its rules are, and how often its most ardent champions are its deadliest enemies. One more chance at 1919, when freedom and plenty lay before us like a land of dreams and we could have made the dream come true if we had been true to freedom's old rule of social umpiring and plenty's new law of mass producers who manufacture mass consumers.

* * *

In Judge Sparks' genuinely liberal talk, in the challenging liberalism of Aluminum-maker R. S. Reynolds, in the enduring and unconfused liberalism of Col. Harry Ayers (which has never yet let itself be given a capital letter and lost in a collectivist party line), in the liberal picture Adolph Berle drew of a world grown so small that individuals can save themselves as individuals only by associating themselves in that ideal, the meeting of the State Chamber was eloquent of the point of view this column has identified with it ever since its birth five years ago. And it hinted happily of that hope for the free way of life which depends so much now on what American business men do and what they become. It hinted of a free enterprise that business men may save not only by talking for it but also by practicing it, and by understanding it enough to know that it demands as much as it offers. It hinted of that multiplied sense of responsibility for keeping our economy going which private business is going to have to have if it hopes to remain private.

* * *

That this last point should have been Judge Sparks' main one and that he should have considered it so important that he refused all other speeches until he had had a chance to make this one to Alabama's business men—is significant of the part this industrial and agricultural state of ours may play in the post-war world. Judge Sparks has the confidence of business men here. His opponents have thought of him, indeed, as perhaps, too much in their confidence. But he serves business men and all the rest of us with such expressions as he made here Thursday. It may be that by using his influence to turn our businessmen liberal, he will help in the equally important job of having our liberals stop turning socialist.

* * *

"A vicious and indefensible piece of legislation" is what The Roanoke, Va., Times calls the anti poll tax bill before Congress These are strong words but none too strong. Vicious and indefensible because the thing lifts again in this war, falsely and without benefit to anybody but the agitators—the Negro question. Vicious and indefensible because the thing is one more—and an especially harmful—instance of this suicidal and insane business of making the war an occasion for domestic crusading rather than the signal for postponement it ought to be if we are to be united in the face of our enemies.

OCT 9 1942

* * *

"Is it your idea," wonders an industrialist, "that everyone who considers freedom is in danger from government a bureaucracy should be branded as an exponent of laissez faire and therefore an enemy to society, even though we 'are so thoroughly beaten?'" It is our idea that there's going to be a lot of government from now on and the main thing is that it be government which umpires rather than government which owns or controls. And that the umpiring be fair.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

SENATORS REPORT CURB ON POLL TAX

OCT 27 1942

Committee Votes 13 to 5 to Put Matter to Floor, but Quick Action Seems Unlikely

A FILIBUSTER IS HINTED

Connally and Doxey Question Propriety of Move—Latter Warns He Will Fight

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26—In the face of a subcommittee report which said the bill was unconstitutional, the Senate Judiciary Committee reported a bill to abolish poll taxes by a vote of 13 to 5 today. A similar bill already has passed the House. The measure probably will not come to a vote in the Senate until after the semi-adjournment for the election campaigns.

Senator Van Nuys of Indiana, chairman, said the Senate "could not possibly act" on the bill until November, and a hint of a filibuster against it came from Senators Connally of Texas and Doxey of Mississippi.

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The bill as approved was substituted by Senator Pepper of Florida. This would have extended the ban on poll taxes only to primary elections. As reported, the bill extends the ban only to Federal elections, as did the House bill.

Senators Connally and Doxey were overruled by Senator Van Nuys when they questioned the right of the committee on the question of reporting the bill in the face of absence of a quorum. Mr. Van Nuys said it was the custom to regard one-third of the eighteen-man committee as a quorum, and ruled that a simple majority would decide the matter. Nine of the votes cast were by proxy.

Mr. Van Nuys said that Mr. Doxey had said he would use "every available means, parliamentary or otherwise," to balk Senate consideration or passage of the measure. Mr. Van Nuys said, however, that he doubted that the members of the Senate from the Southern States would start a filibuster.

OCT 27 1942

Mr. Connally referred to a rule of the Senate providing that no committee should report a bill unless at least half the members were present in disputing the statement of Mr. Van Nuys.

"I thought we had a share of stock in this rule," he said. "I thought we had a share of stock in the Constitution, but it seems that instrument has gone into retirement until after the Nov. 3 election. It will take a powerful pulmotor to revive it."

Mr. Connally, on the meeting of the Senate, made a point of order against the reporting of the bill by such a large number of proxies in the committee.

"The question is not whether you are for the poll tax or against it," he said. "It is a question of whether the Senate is going to observe the plain mandate of the Constitution."

OCT 27 1942

Mr. Connally's statement was answered by Senator Barkley of Kentucyy, the Majority Leader, who said that in his opinion Senate rules permitted a committee to function with only one-sixth of its members present.

In a formal statement issued after Senate adjournment, Mr. Connally said that the report was "purely a political gesture" and "utterly unconstitutional." He said that if it passed it would mean "Federal bayonets at the voting places."

Save Your Spleen For the Damyankee Poll-Tax Appeasers

P.M. Daily

By JED HARRIS

(Broadway theatrical producer and a frequent contributor to PM)

OCT 16 1942

If you are a reader of this newspaper the chances are that you are a moderately intelligent person. While you may feel very strongly about certain things, you are more than likely to be rational, that is, capable of grasping and understanding facts.



Jed Harris

So I do not expect you to be astonished or alarmed when I begin by saying frankly that I have absolutely nothing against the Southern politicians who are opposed to the Poll Tax Bill. You take an ignorant, crafty yokel like Martin Dies or a blabbermouth like Cotton Ed Smith, or an illiterate political hoodlum like Pappy O'Daniel or a couple of Jew-baiting clowns like Rankin and Reynolds, and you ought to know roughly what to expect.

OCT 16 1942

Moreover, I hope you won't be too disappointed if I go a little further and admit to a downright fondness for the whole white trash bloc. The fact is that I like them all and I shall tell you why.

I like them because they are so entirely and refreshingly natural. They were simply born and brought up that way just as their dear mammies and daddies were before them. Of course, they feel a little bit upset these days but why shouldn't they? After all, if this Poll Tax Bill is high-pressured through Congress by dangerous Reds like you and me, what do you suppose is going to become of their political jobs? How are they going to live? These men are simple artless fellows. Some of them never even knew there had been a Civil War in this country until they saw *Gone With the Wind*. Many of them have spent their whole lives protecting white womanhood and public utility companies. Do you think it's going to be any fun going back to a steady diet of Southern cooking in some Coca Cola town with no good old government check coming in, no mileage money, no free postage, no Federal payroll for your friends and relatives, and nothing to break the monotony but an occasional lynching party?

Of course not! So, don't waste any of your spleen on these unfortunate catfish-eaters. Save it!

OCT 16 1942

Save it for the damyankee politicians, both Democratic and Republican, who are going to hedge and weasel and horsetrade on this issue. Save a lot of it for Mr. Hamilton Fish of the great State of New York, a member of the party of Abraham Lincoln. Save it for the filthy professional politicians who are going to play ball with the dry bones of the old Confederacy. Save it for the corny defenders of States' Rights. Save it for the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee who refused to report the anti-poll tax bill out to the Senate.

Save it. Don't spit till you see the whites of their eyes!

Gadsden, Ala., Times
October 26, 1942

Violating Oath Of Office

One of the things which goes to show what is the matter with the country today as it fumbles ineffectively with many pressing problems is revealed in the attitude of many persons in Washington as the vicious anti-poll tax legislation is considered.

It is a common thing for members of Congress to concede that the proposed action is clearly unconstitutional but to add that they are going to vote for it because the Negroes of the North want it.

Others are equally frank about forgetting their oath to support the Constitution and openly base their action upon politics. Many Republicans will say "I know the proposal is unconstitutional but the issue threatens to split the Democratic Party, therefore, I am for it."

When many thus are motivated by expediency and cheerfully admit that they are paying no attention to the solemn oath they took to support the Constitution, the observer may begin to realize that something deeply perilous has crept into the official life of this nation.

Every member of the Congress of the United States and every public official in every important station is required to take this oath when assuming office:

"I solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office (whatever the office may be) and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States." The President, members of the Supreme Court, members of the Congress and all other responsible officials must take an oath to this effect, with one hand raised to high heaven and the other usually resting upon the Holy Bible.

This would appear to be a solemn and deeply serious promise but it is not so regarded by many who occupy high positions today. Expediency, political considerations, personal advantage and other influences enter to cause violations of this solemn oath and forgetfulness of the deeply solemn duties that it imposes. They fail to support the Constitution; to defend the Constitution and to uphold the Constitution, and seek only to defend, build up and support their political fences.

It would be impossible to conceive of statesmen of an earlier period in this nation's history becoming so grossly indifferent to their oaths of office. Many of the pioneer statesmen who help to make this nation great would have suffered the loss of their right arms before they would have forsaken the oath they took when those arms were raised to heaven; they would have suffered their tongues to have become paralyzed before they would have suffered these tongues to lie about their loyalty to the Constitution.

And when one recalls this fact one then may understand that something vitally wrong has crept into American public life and that this wrong, growing out of the forgetfulness of deeply sacred obligations, accounts for much that is sorely amiss in the ideals and conduct of those who shape the nation's destiny in these perilous times.

As the phrase "Back to God" expresses a deep and profound need in the spiritual life of the nation today, so the phrase "Back to the Constitution" expresses a sore need in the political life of the nation and a need which must be met if survival may be hoped for in the great and tragic struggle of today.

"God is not mocked" and it is mockery to raise the right hand toward His throne and use His name in repeating oaths that there is no intention of observing.

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POLL TAX

SENATORS HEAR SMASHING ATTACK ON EVILS OF SOUTHERN POLL TAX

MAR 21 1942 PITTSBURGH COURIER MAR 21 1942
PITTSBURGH, PA.

Many Prominent Southerners Appear Before Senate Committee to Urge Favorable Action on Pepper's Bill to Abolish Tax as Prerequisite to Vote.

WASHINGTON, Mar. 19—A smashing attack on the undemocratic poll-tax in eight Southern States was made during Thursday and Friday at hearings of the Senate Juliciary Subcommittee in the Senate Caucus room here when several prominent Southerners demanded passage of the bill which would abolish the vicious penalty on voting.

Introduced by Senator Claude Pepper, (Dem., Fla.) the bill would outlaw payment of state poll taxes as a prerequisite for voting in federal elections.

The eight states which will be affected if the bill becomes law, are: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

EDITOR ASSAILS PREJUDICES

Herbert Agar, editor of the Louisville Courier Journal urged that abolition of the poll tax was essential to winning the war.

"German and Japanese propagandists," Agar declared, "are telling the peoples of Asia that we do not mean what we say when we talk about democracy. If we don't get rid of racial prejudice at home, we will lose our strongest allies, the colored peoples of the world.

MAR 21 1942

"I am here today," he testified, "because the poll tax is doing my country harm. It gives lie to our democratic traditions. Nations which have been living off their moral capital are either dying, or dead. The most important question before us, is whether we will go down the same drain which has taken so many of the free nations."

CORRUPT 'BOSES' THRIVE ON TAX

Silliman Evans, publisher of the Nashville Tennessean and the Chicago Sun told the sub-committee: "The poll tax is a blessing to corrupt political machines, which may buy up huge blocks of poll-tax receipts and pass them out to their friends. This is how Ed Crump of Memphis, Tenn., built up a political machine without peer in the country."

Speaking from experience, the protege of Jessie Jones declared: "Thanks to the poll tax, there are fewer 'no' votes in Shelby County, (Memphis) than there are in Nazi Germany."

Another witness, Morse A. Plunket of Virginia, representing the Southern Electoral Reform League declared:

"Advocacy of the poll tax, and a sincere belief in political democracy are irreconcilable."

MAR 21 1942

UNION LEADERS TESTIFY

The sub-committee heard its first two Negro witnesses yesterday. They were William Berry, representing the United Cannery, Agriculture, Packing Allied Workers, CIO, and Little Stewart, also of Memphis, representing the International Woodworkers of America.

Berry swore that when he voted for the first time, last election, a worker of the local Crump machine snatched the pencil out of his hand and marked the ballot for him.

Stewart declared that most workers couldn't afford the $2 poll tax in Tennessee.

White-haired Lucy Randolf Mason, descendant of the man who wrote the Virginia Bill of Rights, explained the present plight of the 10,000,000 Americans, black and white, who are disfranchised by the poll taxes.

"Too many poor families in the South have to choose between their right to vote and a new pair of shoes for one of the children." Summing up for the share-cropper and the poor white she pointed out:

"A dollar ain't much, if you've got it."

MAR 21 1942

SUPPRESSED POLL TAX REPORT

Plunkett introduced the suppressed report of a sub-committee of the Virginia Advisory Legislative Council recommending abolition of the poll tax in Virginia as a source of political corruption.

Another witness, dirt-farmer Mrs. Kate Bradford Stockton of Prentis County, Tenn., frankly confessed that her husband was elected County Trustee by the simple expedient of writing a check for $300 in poll taxes which bought 150 votes.

Jennings Perry, another prominent Southerner, testfied that in his state, (Tennessee) about 400,000 of the 1,800,000 citizens actually elected state and national officials.

The hearings brought out that 76 per cent of eligible voters cast their ballots in the non poll tax states in the last presidential election while the percentage for poll tax states was only 27 per cent.

Members of the sub-committee include: Chairman, Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney, (Dem., Wyo.); Senator Warren R. Austin, (Rep., Vt.); Senator George W. Norris, (Ind., Neb.); Senator Abe Murdock, (Dem., Utah), and Senator Tom Connolly, (Dem., Tex.).

SENATORS CONSIDER EVILS AT HEARING

MAR 21 1942
Pittsburgh, Pa.
Pittsburgh Courier
MAR 21 1942

WASHINGTON, March 19.—Five representatives of the race lifted their voices on Saturday along with white Southerners in support of Senator Claude Pepper's bill which would abolish the poll tax in eight States where 6,000,000 Negroes and 4,000,000 whites are prevented in voting by inability to pay a tax requirement.

Those speaking before a special Senate judiciary committee included John P. Davis, national secretary of the National Negro Congress and first speaker, accompanied by George B. Murphy Jr., administrative secretary; Perry W. Howard, national Republican committeeman of Mississippi and grand legal counsel of Elks; Miss Jeanetta Welch, legislative representative of the Alpha Kappa Alpha's Non-Partisan Council; Edgar G Browne, president of the United Government Employes and adviser in the CCC, and Milton Morar Weston of New York, representative of the huge National Workers' Order, which has a paucity of colored members.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
March 22, 1942

CONCERNING THE POLL TAX

If the so-called Pepper anti-poll tax Bill gets out of Committee to the floor of either the House or the Senate, many members will doubtless insist that although they are opposed to poll taxes, they cannot find in the Constitution any warrant for Federal legislation for forbidding them as prerequisites for voting. The subject has been much debated, and there are Supreme Court decisions in cases which bear on it. The final test, however, will probably be the attitude of a Congressional majority toward the abuses which have grown up in the eight so-called poll tax States of which Tennessee is one.

Concerning elections for the House of Representatives, the Constitution provides that "the electors (that is, the voters) in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State Legislature." In other words, the question of placing restrictions upon the voters was to be left to the State. The States which impose poll taxes for national elections require such taxes for voting for the lower houses of their legislatures. Opponents of Federal legislation dealing with poll taxes may argue, therefore, that to impose them conforms with constitutional authority.

Supporters of the Pepper Bill cite another provision in the Constitution, Section Four of Article One, which provides in part: "The times, places, and manner of holding elections for Senators and Representatives shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by law make or alter such regulations, except as to places of choosing Senators." It is argued that although the latter half of that provision may not empower Congress to prescribe positively what State election laws must be, it does empower Congress, negatively, to nullify State laws which are arbitrary or discriminatory. Moreover, if it can be proved that poll taxes as a requirement for voting are arbitrary or discriminatory, they may fall under the Due Process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

Supporters of Federal anti-poll tax law cite a decision of the Supreme Court on May 26, 1941, which upheld the power of Congress to regulate primary elections in the States. The Court declares that a Negro denied the right to vote in a Democratic primary in Louisiana for election to Congress was being deprived of rights and privileges guaranteed him by the Constitution. Four years earlier, however, the Court refused unanimously in the Breedlove case to issue a mandamus to permit a citizen of Georgia to register without paying the State poll tax. In that case, the Supreme Court termed voting a privilege derived from the States and found that the Georgia poll tax does not violate the clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment guaranteeing equal protection of the law to all citizens. Still later, on October 13 last, the Court refused in the Pirtle case to intervene in the decision of a lower court in Tennessee which had been based on the Breedlove case.

All the controversy and argument which can be based on legal precedents cannot obscure the fundamental argument of the opponents of the poll tax, which is that the tax is contrary to the public interest not only because it is discriminatory as it may affect the individual, but discriminatory against the mass of the people because of the political power which manipulators of the poll tax receipts invariably exercise in some form. Election frauds will not be stamped out overnight if the poll tax requirement is eliminated. But no one familiar with the corrupt practices the poll tax makes easy can doubt that to eliminate the tax would strike a heavy blow at the entrenched political machines. So far as the public interest is concerned, the people have everything to gain and nothing to lose by dropping the poll tax and providing a permanent registration law under which the voting privilege of the individual citizen is protected.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Poll-Tax Must Be Abolished Now! Operation Disfranchises Millions

MAR 21 1942

"THE POLL TAX gives the lie to our democratic traditions," declared Herbert Agar, southern writer and editor, before the Senate Judiciary sub-committee holding hearings on the poll-tax bill.

The poll-tax is basically against the principles of a free ballot. It operates a vicious system of disfranchisement which fosters an oligarchy in the south. The poll-tax was conceived in sin and perpetuates a group of untouchables in public office who maintain their prejudices in the most exalted places of government.

The poll-tax prevents the masses of citizens, colored and white, from voting in the south. These people have no voice in their government.

The poll-tax must be abolished, if freedom and decency are to obtain in America. It is impossible to keep the arch foes of democracy out of Washington so long as the masses of citizens are prevented from electing liberals by the simple process of the poll-tax.

The colored citizens in the North should not consider this matter of poll-tax lightly. It is to their best interests, as well of the whole United States, that the poll-tax be liquidated at once.

MAR 21 1942

The viciousness of the system permits the poll-tax to accumulate for years and it is difficult for those who have not been paying to raise the large amounts necessary to pay the current as well as back poll-tax.

When the masses in the south are able to vote with the abolishment of the poll-tax, the "solid South" will get out of the saddle and men of good repute will be able to secure public office. This will be the greatest single step democracy has made in America since the Civil War.

THE POLL-TAX MUST BE ABOLISHED NOW!

Globe and
Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

Local Newspaper Men Take Lead In Battle For Repeal

MAR 20 1942

Charge Eight States, Now Restricting Right To Vote, Violate Federal Constitution; Crump Machine Hit

MAR 20 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C.—A plea for the protection of the federal constitution, and that "democracy may not become a touchstone for hypocrites," was made before a Senate Judiciary Subcommittee Thursday, March 12th by a group of Southerners testifying in support of a bill by Senator Pepper, Democrat, of Florida, which would outlaw payment of state poll taxes as a prerequisite to voting for federal office holders.

Silliman Evans, editor of the **Nashville Tennessean**, charged that "the poll tax permits minority rule" and "cheating" of honest voters in eight Southern states, and that in actual operation it produces self-selected suffrage. He testified that poll taxes had enabled Ed Crump of Memphis "to build up a polit machine that has no peer in country," and that this mach "controls about 80,000 of Tenness 400,000 voters." He said tha man "can't expect to defeat a Cru supported candidate who goes a race with about 20 percent of votes in his pocket."

The assistant editor of the **Tennessean**, Jennings Perry, stated tha "the republican form of governmen has been destroyed in all the poll tax states." "Tennessee right now has 100,000 more men registered for military service—and in it—(all of poll tax age) than she has voters," Mr. Perry said, adding that in Tennessee about 400,000 of the 1,800,000 citizens actually elect state and national officials.

Miss Lucy Randolph Mason, Southern Public Relations Counsel of the CIO, testified that the poll tax represented a deliberate denial of representation to the poor, a denial "creating wrongs and injustices of many types." She stated that the tax was an injustice to wage earners and destroyed their civil rights, because they do not elect local sheriffs as well as state and national officials. "Elected representatives forget the people who do not share in their elections," she said.

Appearing on behalf of the Southern Electoral Reform League, the outstanding Southern organization fighting the poll tax, and its affiliate, the Virginia Electoral Reform League, Mrs. Plunkett and David George, both of Virginia, gave factual evidence of the way in which political machines perpetuate themselves through the purchase of "blocks" of poll tax receipts, and told of the organized Southern movement for the abolishing of the poll tax represented by the Reform League.

Mr. Plunkett told the subcommittee that an official report of a subcommittee of the Virginia legislature, appointed to make a study of election reforms, had made a report strongly favoring abolishment of the poll tax, which had been suppressed by the body that had instructed it to make its study.

Testifying concerning the purchase of poll tax receipts by organizations or groups, Mr. George claimed that authoritative public statements have been made by public officials in Virginia that the practice of such "block" payment of poll taxes is common in the state. He testified that an official audit of the treasuries of 100 counties of Virginia had shown shortages in a majority. This is due, he explained, to the practice of the treasurer making as paid blocks of poll tax receipts purchased before payment was actually made and then failing to collect.

Frank McCallister, of Atlanta, Ga., Southern secretary of the Workers Defense League, included two main points in his testimony. He stated that Southern states now requiring the poll tax as a prerequisite to MAR 20 1942 are violating the terms of their readmission to the union after the war, since that act of Congress readmitting them provided "that their constitutions never be so amended or changed as to deprive any citizen or class of citizens of the United States of the right to vote who are entitled to vote by the consitution herein recognized." That constitution, he said, contained a provision that "all citizens of the state are hereby declared to possess equal civil and political rights and public privileges."

His second point was that the poll tax as a prerequisite to voting "is an institution which is discriminatory and was meant to be so by those who enacted such legislation."

Also testifying in support of the Pepper bill were Mrs. Sherwood Anderson, of Marion, Va., representing the National Y. W. C. A., and Mrs. Kate Bradford Stockton, of Allardt, Tenn., who said she represented the "dirt farmers" of Tennessee hills. A statement sent by the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, the organization representing Southern sharecroppers and farm tenants, was received and placed in the record.

Dr. Will Alexander, former administrator of the Farm Security Administration, and Dr. Frank Graham, president of the University of North Carolina, presented written statements to the subcommittee.

Phillip Murray, president of the CIO; William Green, president of the AFL; representatives of the railway brotherhoods; Benjamin Marsh, of Peoples Lobby; and Albert Hamilton, of the Socialist Party, were expected to testify before the end of the four-day hearings.

Nation
New York, N. Y.

Not "Poor White" but Poor

APR 18 1942

Dear Sirs: Your editorial on the poll tax printed on March 21 stated that the tax disfranchises the "poor white" and the Negro. To most persons "poor white" means the white tenant farmer, the man who gets his living from land of miserable quality. Outside this classification, however, is a vast reservoir of potential voters who are also disfranchised by the poll tax, and it is to these that I should like to call your attention.

The South is peppered with small businesses. There are a great number of laundries, myriads of corner groceries, innumerable saw mills, cotton gins, tiny lumber yards, coal yards, coke furnaces, mattress factories, paper mills, marble works, potteries, and so on. Each employs from one to twenty or in some cases a hundred or more individuals—bookkeepers, checkers, and other white-collar workers, as well as what we call common labor. Again in the cities and towns Woolworth, Kress, department stores, chain stores, and the like employ countless clerks, drivers, office help, window dressers, sweepers.

APR 18 1942

These people do not fall into the classification of "poor white," though of course they are poor; the wages everywhere are low. Can they pay poll taxes? Take my neighbor, a man of forty, a floor manager in a middle-sized department store. Twenty years ago when he reached voting age he got a job. Like thousands of others he did not realize the importance of voting. The years slipped by. Now he is faced with an accumulation of back poll taxes of $40 if he wants to vote. If his wife wanted to, and incidentally she does, it would take another $40. His salary won't permit such an expenditure. He is disfranchised. But he is infinitely better off than the little girl across the street behind the counter in Woolworth's five and ten. She can't ever manage to take $2 out of her week's earnings to pay the tax.

APR 18 1942

I believe that if the Southern politicians had the choice of giving the vote to the "poor white" and the Negro or to these other disfranchised, they would unhesitatingly give it to the former group, which is made up of people so sunk in prejudice (poor white) or so scared (Negro) that their votes could easily be controlled. The other group would vote for progressive measures, and the control of the minority would be ended.

Property Lost the Ballot This Way

Courier-Journal SEP 21 1942
Louisville, Ky.

The GEYER Bill to abolish the poll tax qualification for suffrage in Federal elections is nearing a vote in the House. A petition to call the bill from the hands of the Judiciary Committee, which has held it for two years, lacks only the signatures of six Congressmen to accomplish its purpose. That the bill would pass seems certain since the required number of signers constitutes a majority of the House.

JOHN M. ROBSION, of the Republican Ninth District, is the only one of the Kentucky delegation to sign the petition. It is not detracting from his credit for the act to note that he is a late signer. It is merely stating a fact; for the petition has been circulating all summer, and Mr. ROBSION'S predominant partisanship lends credence to a supposition that Republicans in Congress must have decided to make a party issue of the measure to win the favor of Northern Negro voters.

SEP 2 1942

That is shrewd strategy if the Democrats permit themselves to be placed in the attitude of obstructionists and doesn't in the slightest degree depreciate the obvious merits of the reform. The bill is democratic, in accordance with Kentucky's tradition of manhood suffrage; and the issue is not racial unless the Democrats allow it to appear so. Hundreds of thousands of white voters are effectively disfranchised by the burden of a poll tax on the family budget.

However, should partisan pressure be resorted to, the GEYER Bill would simply be pursuing the course by which all democratic progress has made its difficult way, playing off one party or estate against another; first the lords and commoners against the king, then the king and commoners against the feudal lords. Property qualifications in the older States were relegated by politicians needing votes.

SEP 21 1942

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

POLL TAX AND REGISTRATION

SEP 21 1942

The soldier absentee voting bill with its poll tax exemption feature is now the law with President Roosevelt's signature. It is purely political and surely will not be taken seriously, least of all among the soldiers and sailors for whose alleged benefit it was passed.

As originally drawn there was no serious objection to the measure for it appeared merely to facilitate the voting of men in the armed service while they were away on duty. Forty-four of the forty-eight States, including Alabama, already have absentee voting laws by which their soldiers can vote, so that actually the law would have applied to only four States even if it had been constitutional. It was when the Senate tacked on the poll tax amendment that the law took on a purely political character and seemed designed to cause embarrassment to the only eight Southern States which have a poll tax requirement for voting. That amendment provided:

SEP 21 1942

"No person in military service in time of war shall be required, as a condition of voting, in any election for President, vice-president. . . .or for senator or member of the House of Representatives, to pay any poll tax. . . ."

That didn't affect Alabama and some of the other poll tax States, because Alabama's Constitution already exempts soldiers of past wars from payment of poll tax. What is so serious about this law and the spirit behind it is that it may serve as an entrance wedge to Federal fixing of suffrage qualifications in the face of the plain Constitutional mandate reserving this right to the States.

The new bill attacks States rights in its first sentence: "Notwithstanding any provision of State law relating to the registration of qualified voters."

Representative Hobbs, of Alabama, made probably the ablest argument that was delivered in Congress against this bill and his array of reasons why it is against both the provisions of the Constitution and the rulings of the Supreme Court should have been convincing to anyone not moved by strictly political motives. Suppose it were true that Congress has the authority to prohibit States from having a poll tax voting requirement. Has Congress, therefore, also the right to say there shall not be a literacy requirement, a property-holding requirement, an age requirement? Mr. Hobbs cites Section 178 of Alabama's Constitution showing that much more is required for voting in Alabama than payment of poll tax. The section reads:

SEP 21 1942

To entitle a person to vote in any election by the people, he shall have resided in the State at least two years, in the county one year, and in the precinct or ward three months immediately preceding the election at which he offers to vote, and he shall have been duly registered as an elector, and shall have paid all poll taxes."

Relief from poll tax payment by no means permits a man to vote in Alabama. Registration is necessary and registration is much more than a mere listing. It will probably do us all good to review just what our State Constitution does provide and require before a man or woman can register and become a sovereign voter in this Commonwealth. Here are the requirements for registration:

First. Those who can read and write any article of the Constitution of the United States in the English language, and who are physically unable to work; and those who can read and write any article of the Constitution of the United States in the English language, and who have worked or been regularly engaged in some lawful employment, business or occupation, trade or calling, for the greater part of the twelve months next preceding the time they offer to register; and those who are unable to read and write, if such inability is due solely to physical disability; or,

Second. The owner in good faith in his own right, or the husband of a woman who is the owner in good faith, in her own right, of forty acres of land situate in this State, upon which they reside; or the owner in good faith in his own right, or the husband of any woman who is the owner in good faith, in her own right, of real estate situate in this State, assessed for taxation at the value of $300 or more, or the owner in good faith, in his own right, or the husband of a woman who is the owner in good faith, in her own right, of personal property in this State assessed for taxation at $300 or more: Provided, that the taxes due upon such real or personal property for the next year preceding the year in which he offers to register shall have been paid, unless the assessment shall have been legally contested and is undetermined.

SEP 21 1942

Mr. Hobbs stated the case plainly when he said: "The Ramsay bill requires the ballots of unregistered voters to be received. The Constitution of Alabama requires they be not received.

"The Ramsay bill would strike down that provision of the Constitution of Alabama requiring payment of poll taxes as a condition precedent to voting. The case of Alabama presents the issue clearly: Can Congress override, without any authority whatsoever, the expressed will of the people of a sovereign State in the face of the fact that the State has the unquestionable right to fix the qualifications requisite for voting?"

SEP 21 1942

There is the issue, and there does not seem any just basis upon which this unprecedented action of Congress with regard to voting qualifications can be upheld if either the spirit or the letter of the Federal Constitutional provisions are to be observed.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.



OCT 16 1942

"'Thou art a Lombard, my brother?
Happy art thou,' she cried,
And smiled like Italy on him.
He dreamed in her face and died."

* * *

Masterly diplomacy it is, and probably most effective propaganda, but the action at Washington which makes alien Italians no longer enemy aliens in this country was the finest tribute ever paid one great people by another. It was a word to the men, women and children of a land with which our country is officially and in deadly earnest at war, and the word was that our country refuses to accept those people as enemies. Nothing like this ever happened before, we suspect. It speaks of a love between our land and Italy so long standing and strong that Mussolini is only a little clock-tick in its eternity. Here in Birmingham, where so much is owed to our Italian population, we are especially happy that this thing should have happened.

* * *

An object of this war is to let the people of Italy be themselves again, their sunny, smiling, loving, peaceful, musical, finely imaginative selves again. In the meantime America does not forget that that is their nature and that they are our kinsmen forever.

OCT 16 1942

Never, it seems to us, was an issue more ringed around with false premises than the poll tax one. If the tax is a violation of the Constitution of the United States the Supreme Court of the United States can be made to say so. If the court won't say so, there is no violation, for the court is the constitution. The most harmfully false premise is that this poll tax has to do with Negro voting. Everybody knows that if the poll tax is abolished in Alabama there will be no resulting great increase necessarily in such voting. Once again the race agitators on both sides are making the South and the nation pay in an aggravated racial feeling which can accomplish nothing. The real issues are three, although Gov. Dixon has hit upon only two. There is a real issue of states' rights, as he says. Federal interference in Southern electoral methods by outlawing of the poll tax is dangerous not because the elimination of the tax would harm us but because the door would be opened for other changes later on. And the South does have a race problem whose intricacy and size have not been sufficiently appreciated by the rest of the country to make national action helpful. There is also, however, even though Gov. Dixon has forgotten about it, an issue against retention of the poll tax by the states themselves. What a simple and right solution of the whole tortured and confused question would have resulted if Alabama had abolished the poll tax by her own act before the war!

OCT 16 1942

The most genuine issue of all, though, it continues to seem to this column, is the one Gov. Dixon makes against the deadly business of trying to do this country over in the face of its enemies. The poll tax could be wrong a million times over and federal action against it indicated in all the stars—and there would nevertheless be little excuse for this agitation of the issue in the midst of a war which calls for national unity as never before. Where there are irreconcilable issues like this one, the only possible sensible treatment for them in wartime is absent treatment. The relative status quo may have a backward sound but it is the only basis upon which we can hope to move forward together against Hitler and Hirohito.

* * *

Gov. Dixon made one of his best speeches to the State Chamber yesterday, even though he left several things out. He was never more eloquent, clear-thoughted, forceful and sincere, and when he said that "the poll tax has nothing to do with the war effort and everybody knows it" he hit a mighty nail on the head. He was impressive, too, when he closed with a plea for giving all we have to this war effort no matter how we disagree on matters foreign or domestic.

* * *

He did leave out a reference to making sure of real democracy at the crossroads, it seemed to us, when he spoke so truly of our American democracy as a thing "of the crossroads." And when he said in equal truth that our boys are entitled when they come home to find the same kind of demorcacy they left when they went to war, he forgot to mention that the democracy they left here was that of a New Deal, dealing through eight long years and finally dealt. He forgot something, too, it seemed to us, when he blamed the trend to centralized government on the desire of politicians to build up machines based on federal patronage. Much as many of us can join him against any whit more of federal activity than circumstances make imperative, it is folly to overlook the increasing smallness and interrelation of our land which have made a more active federal government as necessary as the red and green lights the governor's crossroads governments have had to establish.

OCT 16 1942

* * *

We hope none of the governor's friends were turned against him by the way he used the word "liberal" as a compliment rather than as an epithet. And by his stout defense of the farmers' position in the recent inflation debate.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

POLL TAXES AND ARMY BIAS

OCT 23 1942

TARGETS OF ARTIST KENT

OCT 23 1942

CLEVELAND—(ANP)—Rockwell Kent, noted writer and artist, called the poll tax and continued discrimination of Negroes in the armed forces "unjust and indefensible" and asked that Negroes keep faith so that "after the war we will all go out to give you all the rights you deserve." The address was made this week before the City Club of Cleveland.

The artist-writer said religion and race should have no influence on appraisal of another's creative effort. He urged that Negroes be accepted as equals not as though bestowing a gift upon them as sincere Americans so that the best in them can be obtained.

OCT 23 1942

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

WHY NOT . . . .

SHOW HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT

THE POLL TAX

By Writing OCT 24 1942

SENATOR WALTER F. GEORGE
SENATOR RICHARD B. RUSSELL
and
SENATOR FREDERICK VAN NUYS
Chairman of Judiciary Committee

OCT 24 1942

To Support The OCT 24 1942

PEPPER ANTI-POLL TAX BILL

Which Abolishes Poll Taxes in Federal Elections

ACT TODAY

Because this bill has passed the House of Representatives and will probably come before the Senate next Monday.

Greenwood, S. C. Index-Journal
September 16, 1942

THEY HAD BETTER GO SLOW!

From Anderson Independent.

During the recent debate in the United States Senate on the bill to give soldiers the right to vote by mail, an amendment was offered setting aside the law of certain southern states making the payment of the poll tax a requisite for voting. Senator George of Georgia asked what was behind the amendment. There was no answer, but everybody knew.

However, the answer is squarely out in the open now. A press dispatch states that an active campaign has been launched to have the 12,000 Negroes now in the armed services from the first congressional district in Mississippi "write in" the name of a Negro Baptist preacher on their ballot for congressman from that district. It was further stated that this campaign will be fully financed by the American Negro council.

There is the answer to Senator George's question.

It is appalling that at a time when the American people are fighting for their very national existence, for political advantage members of Congress from both national parties outside the South should unite in reviving the issue of White Supremacy in the South with all its bitter passions, and thus seriously jeopardize the unity of the nation. Such tactics will make Hitler happy. It will not affect the devotion of the southern people to the fight for freedom, but if this nefarious scheme is pushed it will inevitably devide our effort, for we are ready to uphold white supremacy in the South at any cost. We met the issue in 1876 in South Carolina, and the sons of the men who rode with Hampton's Red Shirts are here, ready in means and methods, to meet that ugly challenge again if it raises its head. We are going to win the war and keep white supremacy while about it.

52e-1942

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Poll Tax Issue Has Farm Security Agency In Middle

FEB 13 1942

Payments For Negro Farmers Not Allowed

FEB 13 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C. — (ANP) —Confusion reigns in the department of agriculture with officials to talk and others giving out information on the poll tax payments for southern whites out of Farm Security administration funds.

Sen. Byrd, Virginia, head of the economy bloc in congress, has demanded that public hearings be had in this matter since he feels that this has been a dissipation of federal funds.

The matter grew out of the discovery that white farmers were permitted to make payments on their back poll taxes from funds allowed them by the FSA for rehabilitation.

FEB 13 1942

When it came to the attention of investigators down south the investigators asked if Negroes were given the same privileges.

Regional Director Morgan said no such thing was being done and further declared that it would not go contrary to the usages and customs of the community.

The matter received wide publicity until it was brought to the attention of the FSA Administrator, C. B. Baldwin, Mr. Baldwin is alleged to have upheld Morgan's decision and said he would stand on the issue.

All attempts to talk with Mr. Baldwin on the matter were rebuffed,, although the department was anxious to have its side of the matter told in a different light.

Investigators declared that amounts as high as $30 and $40 per person were paid in some of the back poll tax cases. This sum covers a period of years during which the white farmers and sharecroppers never voted, but in view of the coming elections, it is the opinion of investigators that the move is a political gesture.

Already members of congress are leaving the matter severely alone, that is those members from the areas affected, particularly Alabama, where the first payments were uncovered. Dallas county, of which Selma is the county seat and "Judge" Sam Hobbs is the representative, is said to be the spot where the poll tax payments first were uncovered. Judge Hobbs has long been an opponent of revocation of poll taxes.

FEB 13 1942

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Say Whites Pay With FSA Cash

FEB 14 1942

Public Hearings Asked By Senator Byrd In Dissipation of Funds

WASHINGTON (ANP)—Confusion reigns in the Department of Agriculture with officials refusing to talk and others giving out information on the poll tax payments for southern whites out of Farm Security administration funds.

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Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

PEPPER WILL RENEW FIGHT ON POLL TAX

Hearings On His Repealer To Open March 12

BILBO PLEDGES BATTLE

FEB 15 1942

Mississippian Says He Will Filibuster 56 Days If Necessary—Measure Affects Only General Elections

From The Commercial Appeal Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—Hearings before a subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee on his bill to eliminate the poll tax as a prerequisite for voting in a primary or general election for national offices will be renewed March 12, Senator Pepper of Florida announced Saturday.

Simultaneously Senator Bilbo of Mississippi said he would fight the Pepper proposal if it ever reaches the floor, and "there has been so much misinformation disseminated into the minds of the people of Mississippi concerning my advocacy of the adoption of the Texas Primary Law and the repeal of the poll tax as a qualification for participation in our Democratic primaries that I want to again try to make clear my objectives."

Threatens Filibuster

As to the Pepper measure, Senator Bilbo declared "When the Anti-Lynching Bill was up I was prepared to filibuter 60 days. I did filibuster four, and if necessary I'll use the remaining 56 against the Pepper Bill."

Senator Pepper said persons from all states now having the poll tax requirement for voting would be invited to the hearings. He said invitations went to Jennings Perry of Nashville; the Rev. Paul B. Kern of Nashville and Silliman Evans, publisher of the Nashhville Tennessean. Those to be invited from Mississiippi and Arkansas will be announced later.

Plead States' Rights

Senator Bilbo and others opposing the Pepper proposal contend it would take from the state regulatory bodies the right to set out qualifications for voting and that it would open the doors to voting by all in the primaries—white and negro alike.

In his advocacy of the Texas Primary Law, Senator Bilbo said "the Texas Law gives the State Democratic Executive Committee the right to prescribe the qualifications of voters in the party primaries or nominating elections. By adopting that law, we can legally, through the rules and regulations of the State Committee, eliminate the negro voters from our primary elections." Constitutionality of the Texas Law has been upheld by the United States Supreme Court.

The Pepper proposal would not apply to primaries in which state officials are elected.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

ROOSEVELT SCORES LEVYING POLL TAX

Defends FSA Loans for Paying of Impost in South—Baldwin Attacks Farm Federation

FEB 14 1942

By C. P. TRUSSELL
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13—Attacking the imposition of a poll tax in some Southern States, President Roosevelt defended without reservation today household budget loans made by the Farm Security Administration which include funds with which this voting levy, imposed under State Constitutions and laws, may be paid by tenant farmers.

When, on Tuesday, he indicated that he disapproved such FSA operations, Mr. Roosevelt told his press conference, he spoke on a premise which had made it appear to him that the Federal Government was paying these State levies for low-income tenant farmers. Under the FSA method, he held, this was not true.

By including in budget loans funds for poll tax payments, current or in arrears, the Chief Executive maintained, such levies were not paid by the government in any shape or form. Further, he insisted, no wiggling around of facts would make the newly disclosed FSA plan constitute government payment of personal taxes.

Inclusion of poll taxes, along with other household budgetary necessities and obligations, Mr. Roosevelt declared, was proper, for they all involved legitimate liabilities of an individual. On this premise the President found disagreement in Congress.

"Such loans," said Senator Byrd, chairman of the Joint Committee on Reduction of Non-essential Federal Expenditures, which has recommended the abolition of the FSA, "are in direct contradiction with the constitutions and laws of States which prohibit the payment of poll taxes by any one other than the prospective voter.

"These loans are a violation of State law as they are made on such slight security as to constitute a virtual gift. It is admitted that at least 20 per cent of the FSA loans are in arrears now.

"They are a further violation of State law and constitution in that they influence votes."

Those who criticize the FSA loan plan, President Roosevelt observed, talking to the press while further hearings on the poll tax loan issue were in progress on Capitol Hill, were of the type of mind of those who were thrilled seven or eight years ago by a proposal to prevent persons on WPA from voting. Cheers and yells went up from those of such a mind, Mr. Roosevelt said, at the suggestion that people should not vote because they were poor.

FEB 14 1942

All his life, the President added, he had been opposed to the poll tax.

Baldwin Defends FSA Practice

Meanwhile in a hearing room in the Senate Office Building, C. B. Baldwin, administrator of the FSA, was questioned about poll tax loans. The questioning, however, was on the basis of the President's assertion of last Tuesday.

"Nobody has been more attentive than I have in carrying out the philosophy of the President," Mr. Baldwin said, "and if he orders us

to quit making these loans, of course we will quit."

Shortly afterward the word of the President's endorsement reached the hearing chamber, and FSA defense testimony, in reply to allegations made previously by the American Farm Bureau Federation, took on a new vigor.

From that point the hearing developed into a concerted drive in which Howard R. Tolley, chief of the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Agricultural Economics, joined with representatives of tenant farmers' unions in an effort to save the FSA from being abolished, as the Byrd committee majority recommended, or even from being curtailed as suggested by the President's budget.

The FSA administrator and farmers' union representatives attacked the American Farm Bureau Federation, which is pressing its own "economy" program, and met federation charges with countercharges.

FEB 14 1942

Federation Is Under Fire

The federation was accused not only of operating with powerful political influence in the South, but with "forcing" tenant and other low-income farmers into its ranks.

He had a "collection," said H. L. Mitchell, secretary of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, of Farm Bureau membership cards sent out to members of his union in Arkansas who never had signed an application blank.

"Their landlords," he charged, "had simply turned in their names to the county agent's office and upon inquiry being made by these tenants, they were informed that their Farm Bureau dues would be paid when the government money came."

Dr. Tolley said that abolition of the FSA would have "a very adverse effect upon the Food for Victory program." Further, he said, there would be "a great deal more distress and poverty" on the farms than at present.

The Food for Victory Program, Dr. Tolley said, called for 500,000,000 dozens more eggs than last year, the planting of 3,000,000 more acres of soy beans and a like acreage of peanuts for fats and oils; a 32 per cent increase in the canning of peas, and 18 per cent more canned tomatoes.

Low Income Farmers Stressed

If the program were to succeed, he said, the production by low-income farmers must rise 35 to 50 per cent, while they would have to handle perhaps 97 per cent of the 1,000,000 new farm gardens which would be needed.

"These increases cannot take place," he added, "unless the low-income groups have credit, guidance, skills and more security of tenure."

Much of the hearing was devoted to the FSA's rebuttal of charges made earlier by the Farm Bureau Federation. These allegations, Mr. Baldwin said, were based upon a Farm Bureau study which had been "hasty, piecemeal or wholly biased." The bias, he suggested, was founded upon the Federation's opposition to some programs of agricultural agencies, including the FSA, and a desire to center farm operations within the extension service.

Mr. Baldwin denied that the FSA, as charged by the federation, had assigned quotas to its field men with instructions to get certain numbers of borrowers in their territories. He scouted the allegation that the FSA "burdened" its clients with loans.

The FSA Administrator denied also that his agency was engaged, as the federation charged, in establishing "impractical and unprofitable" collectives, or that the FSA had been lending money to clients to pay off installments on previous loans.

Mr. Baldwin said the FSA did not take renewal notes as payment on its loans, as the federation alleged.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

FSA TO CONTINUE ADVANCING FUNDS TO PAY POLL TAX

FEB 14 1942

Backed by President, Chief Defies Critics.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 13 (AP).—The Farm Security administration, backed up by President Roosevelt, informed a congressional committee today that it will continue to regard poll taxes as allowable expenditures of its rehabilitation loans clients unless otherwise directed by law.

C. B. Baldwin, FSA administrator, made this assertion to the joint economy committee after President Roosevelt had told his press conference that FSA clients have a budget which includes every necessity of life—food, clothing, a bed to sleep in, and taxes of all kinds. Thus the tenants are permitted to put down an item for a poll tax, he said.

The administration declared emphatically, however, that the FSA itself had not been paying poll taxes, as critics charge. He also asserted incidentally that he personally had been opposed to poll taxes. Answering a question, he said he thought the poll tax in the south had in some instances kept poor people from voting.

Charges Law Violations.

Sen. Carter Glass [D., Va.] contended that the effect of the FSA practice was to lend money for payment of poll taxes in violation of certain state laws, including Virginia's. He told Baldwin that the FSA was trying to give voting privileges to persons who otherwise would be unable to vote under the state constitution and statutes.

At a press conference Tuesday President Roosevelt was told that Baldwin had admitted that the FSA had paid poll taxes in Alabama.

That, Mr. Roosevelt said today, was not a statement of fact, and he declared that an erroneous premise had been established both on Capitol Hill and at his Tuesday's press conference. At that conference the President said he did not think the FSA should pay poll taxes.

Citing this comment of the President, Sen. Harry Flood Byrd [D., Va.], chairman of the committee, asked Baldwin today if he still intended to continue the FSA policy.

Based on President's Stand.

The administrator said he agreed with the President's assertion that a government agency should not pay poll taxes for a citizen and added that he had not been advised that the President disapproved of the policy. Later, informed of the President's remarks on the subject today, Baldwin told the committee he will continue the existing policy.

FEB 14 1942

Baldwin's appearance before the committee was to deny charges of waste and maladministration brought against the FSA by the American Farm Bureau federation.

Baldwin denied that the FSA had solicited borrowers or intentionally loaned them more than they needed, as alleged by farm bureau witnesses. He also denied that grants had been made to borrowers to enable them to make payments on government loans.

"I am sure that the committee will agree," he said, "that the burden of proof is still on the American Farm Bureau federation."

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Poll Taxes And FSA

FEB 16 1942

It does not in the least matter whether the FSA pays poll taxes directly for farmers or permits those taxes to be entered among necessary expenditure items taken into account when the FSA makes loans to farm clients. In either case, the net result is the same: some thousands of farmers who would otherwise be delinquent are given the means to pay poll taxes. So the President is just confusing the issue when he tries to justify his about-face in respect to these poll-tax payments by explaining that he had mistakenly assumed the payments were direct.

The President is unquestionably right in objecting to the poll tax itself. For in the eight Southern States where payment of this tax is prerequisite to voting, it is deliberately used as a means of disfranchising thousands of low-income citizens. It is well known, too, that State political machines have found the undemocratic poll-tax system very useful, since it enables them to "count out" a large proportion of the electorate and to curry favor with a limited body of voters by indirectly paying their poll taxes. No wonder, therefore, that the FSA stirred up a veritable hornet's nest when it entered the field and began to do some enfranchising on its own account.

However, the essential iniquity of the poll-tax system is no justification for the FSA policy of using Federal funds to circumvent State laws. Changes in State laws—or possibly an amendment to the Federal Constitution—are the only suitable remedy for poll-tax abuses. In fact, if the FSA were a bona fide lending agency instead of a hybrid relief organization, the problem of the poll taxes would never have arisen. Senator Byrd put his finger on the real source of the trouble when he said that the FSA loans "are a violation of State laws, as they are made on such slight security as to constitute a virtual gift." That, of course, is the truth of the matter. Although aid is extended in the form of loans, many borrowers will never be in a position to repay their debts.

FEB 16 1942

The so-called borrowers are really wards of the Government whose way of life is closely supervised to make sure that the funds advanced are intelligently used. If the FSA budget plan makes provision for food, clothes, etc., it likewise must make provision for such necessary outlays as taxes. So in a sense an attack on the FSA for paying poll taxes is an assault upon its very foundations. The Federal Government cannot undertake relief operations for thousands of farm families without coming into conflict with local governmental authorities on many fronts. The FSA as well as the poll tax ought to be abolished. Both are unsuited to the requirements of a democratic society.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

FSA And Poll Taxes

FEB 18 1942

Charges that the Farm Security Administration pays poll taxes for its clients in states where such levies are required have been met in a variety of ways the last few days. The FSA administrator admitted that the outfit does pay such taxes, and on Tuesday of that week President Roosevelt said he did not think such practices should be followed. On Friday the President said he did not approve of poll taxes, that the FSA had a budget plan that made allowances for all taxes of its clients, and that he saw nothing out of the way about the matter.

The people of the states where FSA is paying poll taxes, however, do not, as a rule, regard the performance lightly. They charge that the FSA, having qualified its clients to vote, then votes them to suit its own purposes and advance its own causes. That could be true and probably is in a majority of cases. The temptation to make use of such opportunities politically is one too powerful to be allowed easy play without genuine apprehension. If the law makes such practices possible, it should be changed at once. And what about the law of Alabama? It provides heavy penalties for making poll tax payments for another.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

POLL TAXES ASSAILED AS MINORITIES' TOOL

MAR 13 1942

Tennessee Editors Tell Senate Group Corruption Is Norished

MAR 13 1942

WASHINGTON, March 12 (AP)—Two newspaper executives and other witnesses told a Senate Judiciary subcommittee today that a minority of voters controlled government in eight Southern States because of poll taxes.

They urged Congress to prohibit the imposition of taxes as a prerequisite for voting in election of Federal officials. The eight States having such a requirement were listed as Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

Silliman Evans, publisher of The Nashville Tennessean, said that "the growth and continued sway of rapacious political machines in the poll-tax States is a thing itself rapidly wearing away even the pretensions to popular government."

The Tennessee publisher mentioned the political machine of Shelby County, headed by Ed Crump of Memphis, and said that it controlled a fifth of the vote in all elections. He declared that voters had lost all interest in the eight poll-tax States with a result that "the vast majority of the people of these States no longer have a voice in the elective determination either of their nation, their State, their county or their village."

Jennings Perry, associate editor of The Tennessean and chairman of the National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax, told the Senators that it was the right and duty of Congress to remove any fetters to the free franchise. He said that under the poll tax "the rule of the majority is supplanted by habitual rule of the minority," and in the eight States "the republican form of government has disappeared."

FDR Defends FSA Poll Tax Loans, Quoting From Alabama Journal

FEB 13 1942 Montgomery, Ala. Alabama Journal FEB 13 1942

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—(INS)—President Roosevelt today undertook to correct what he said was the erroneous impression that the Farm Security Administration has been paying poll taxes for tenant farmers in Alabama and elsewhere.

He asserted that "a statement of fact" had been put to him at his last press conference in this connection which investigation proved to be not true.

The government is not paying poll taxes in any way, said the president. He remarked however, that he had always been opposed to poll taxes.

Actually, the farm tenants have a budget which includes every necessity of life and taxes of all kinds. In that budget they are allowed to put down poll taxes if they desire but the government is not paying the taxes and no one can wiggle the situation around to make it so, he said. The taxes are liabilities on the individual tenant.

A number of members of Congress fell into the error of believing that FSA had been paying poll taxes, Mr. Roosevelt said.

FEB 13 1942

He commented somewhat ironically on this type of mind and upon certain columnists whom he did not name. He said this was the same group which were quite thrilled when a drive was under way some years ago to prevent anyone on relief from voting.

Asked his personal opinion of the poll tax, he quoted from The Alabama Journal, which called attention to the state law forbidding anyone from paying another's poll tax but allowing an individual to borrow the necessary money for that purpose.

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(Editor's Note: The president evidently referred to an editorial by C. M. Stanley, editor of The Alabama Journal, and an article by M. L. Sharpley, city editor of the Journal, which pointed out that there is little difference between a citizen borrowing money from a bank to pay general taxes and a citizen borrowing money from the FSA to pay taxes which include the poll tax).

Meantime Farm Security Administrator C. B. Baldwin told the joint congressional economy committee that the "burden of proof still is on the American Farm Bureau Federation" which made the allegation.

"In my judgment, the committee has been imposed upon," Baldwin said. "The FSA has been imposed upon. We all have been imposed upon.

"The people who conducted the investigation were not before the committee. The members of the committee were unable to cross-examine the witnesses. None of the usual methods of testing the truth of the statements was available to the committee."

POOR KEPT FROM VOTING, SAYS FDR

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—(AP)—President Roosevelt declared today he always had been opposed to a poll tax and he added that the Farm Security Administration had not been paying any such taxes.

He informed a press conference that FSA tenants have a budget which includes every necessity of life—food, clothing, a bed to sleep in, and taxes of all kinds. And these budgets, he said allow the tenants to put down an item for poll tax.

Mr. Roosevelt answered in the affirmative a question whether he thought the poll tax in the South had in some instances kept poor people from voting and he said he thought that was a bad idea. He said he had been opposed to a poll tax all his life.

Baldwin was before the non-essential expenditure committee again today and Chairman Byrd (D.), Virginia, questioned him closely on previous testimony that the FSA included poll tax payments as proper expenditures in considering FSA loans.

"Do you intend to continue this policy?" Byrd asked.

Baldwin reiterated his belief that such expense was a proper one in considering the farmer's economic station.

Byrd asked Balwdin to submit later a memorandum telling "this committee what you intend to do or whether you will insist upon a prohibition from Congress."

Pathfinder
Washington, D. C.

CONGRESS PROBING POLL TAX TYRANNY IN SOUTH

FEB 27 1942

By EMMETT J. SCOTT

Again to the fore is discussion of the poll-tax legislation of the Democratic South. It is having a more complete airing than ever before. A congressional probe is now on, forced by admissions of the chief of the Farm Security Administration that he has been, and is aking loans for the payment of poll-taxes under the FSA program for the rehabilitation of destitute "white" farmers. Pure, unadulterated discrimination in government administration!

The lid was blown off at a U. S. Senate hearing of the Joint Committee on Non-Defense Expenditures. The actions of the FSA were denounced as amounting to a "national disgrace". Further, it is stated, the inquiry indicates "startling and shocking conditions of waste, extravagance, and indefensible practices."

Southern Democratic senators were angry, disgruntled, disgusted, outraged. Not—bear in mind, because of the exclusion policy against Negroes, but particularly because they affect to fear "flagrant attempts to build up political pressure groups" in the South, probably to be used against these same perturbd statesmen. All of which exposes the hypocrisy of the senatorial group who contend that the poll-tax payments by the government are in violation of provisions of the Federal Constitution.

The deceptions of poll-tax legislation, fostered by the Democratic states of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia were not denounced, for it is well understood that back of it all is the preservation of oligarchic government in that region, and, fundamentally, to disfranchise as many as possible of the 12,500,000 Negro residents of that section.

The notion of these Democratic organizations is to prevent federal relationship of any kind whatever, with likelihood of Negroes being allowed to exercise franchise privilees guaranteed by the XIV and XV Amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

529 FEB 27 1942

It is well known that the exaction of poll-tax payments is but part and parcel of a repressive system, designed primarily to disfranchise Negroes. Its workings, however, have disfranchised more poor whites than Negroes in some of the southern Democratic states. Highly organized political tyranny has

The payment of poll-taxes through FSA is restricted to white farmers in the state where poll-taxes are involved to the exclusion of Negro farmers C. B. Baldwin Administrator of FSA, admitted under questioning before the Senatorial Committee that such is the case. To the Negro, of course, this not only is an unfair discriination against his right to vote in the South being exercised, but is discrimination being exercised by a governmental bureau dispensing public funds. It therefore becomes a double-barrelled offense against the rights of the Negro, aainst the Constitution and against every tenet of democracy.

FEB 27 1942

Following the last presidential election, the Congressional Record reported a northern congressman as stating: "In the 1940 presidential election almost four-fifths of the potential voters in the eight poll-tax states were denied a ballot. In the states which did not obstruct the right to vote with a dollar sign, the proportion of potential voters who case ballots averaged more than 70 per cent, while in the states which required the payment of a poll-tax the number of voters averaged 21.10 per cent. Clearly, as long as the dollar sign is made a bar to voting in any part of the United States, American democracy will continue to be what has so aptly been termed a 'fractional democracy'."

These observations are at point: On Nov. 5, 1940, 319,643 individual voters went to the polls in Rhode Island to select four presidential electors. This number is 79.7 per lent of the state's number of potential voters.

Compare Rhode Island's showing with the one made in South Carolina where only 99 832 votes were cast, a bare 8.8 per cent of the potential voters. But on this small vote South Carolina selected eight presidential electors, or twice as many as Rhode Island.

FEB 27 1942

That is, it required 79,912 votes in Rhode Island to determine the selection of one elector, while in South Carolina only 12,749 were required to accomplish the same result. An individual vote in South Carolina had more than six times as much effect in selecting a President and Vice President of the United States as an individual vote in Rhode Island.

For comparison's sake also note these figures: Alabama selected eleven electors while casting only 17.6 per cent of its potential voting strength; Georgia got 12 electors on a 16.3 per cent vote; Mississippi got 9 electors on a 15.2 per cent vote and South gCarolina, as mentioned above, got 8 electorson an 8.8 per cent vote. These four southern states, all of them employing the poll-tax syster, had 40 electors on a total popular vote of 882,414.

President Roosevelt comes into this picture in a somewhat unfavorable way. In 1938, the Associated Press reported him as expressing sympathetic opposition to state poll-tax payments, saying they disfranchised large portions of the population, and defended the right of these disfranchised persons to vote. Previously he had endorsed a proposed Arkansas constitutional amendment to abolish the state poll-tax.

When the FSA inquiry revealed the fact that one of the agencies of his administration was paying poll-taxes, by loans to white farmers only—it may be stated—he scrathingly condemned the practice A few days later he repudiated his former [illegible]

While the nation is fighting for its very existence; while we are fighting, as we say, for the [illegible] of democratic principles throughout the world, this is a good time for us truly and realistically to practice some real democracy right here in our own country.

President Hits Poll Tax As Ban on Vote to Poor

FEB 13 1942

Worker-Tele-gram N.Y.C.

By the United Press.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—President Roosevelt today condemned the levying of poll taxes as a practice that has prevented many poor people in the South from voting and said he has opposed such levies all his life.

He made the comment in telling his press conference that he had proceeded on an erroneous premise when he said Tuesday that the Farm Security Administration should not pay toll taxes for indigent farmers.

He said today that he had found on investigation that the FSA had not paid the poll taxes.

He said that farmers seeking FSA loans had included poll taxes in their budget of necessary living expenses, and that the FSA had approved their inclusion in granting loans to cover deficits in the farmers' budgets. That, Mr. Roosevelt said, is proper, inasmuch as poll taxes are a legitimate liability.

FEB 13 1942

Mr. Roosevelt pointed out to his press conference that FSA tenant farmers operate on a budget approved by the agency—a budget including every necessity of life, such as food, clothing, shelter and taxes of all kinds, which, he added, would include poll taxes.

He said the premise that such an action meant that the government paid these poll taxes was wrong. If such a premise were correct, he asserted, it could be said similarly that the government paid many other forms of taxes for people. He said, somewhat bitterly, that there were people on Capitol Hill and certain columnists seven or eight years ago who thrilled at a proposal to prevent anyone on Works Projects Administration rolls from voting.

These thrilled people were of the same type of mind as the critics of the FSA's handling of tenant farmer budgets, he said.

C. B. Baldwin, FSA Administrator, appearing before the joint Congressional Economy Committee, had testified that money for poll tax payments was included in loans to indigent farmers. Mr. Baldwin emphatically denied that there was any political motive in the policy, however.

FEB 13 1942

He testified before the Economy Committee again today, defending FSA against charges of waste, negligence and political activities lodged by the American Farm Bureau Federation. He said the federation's investigation of FSA was hasty and incomplete and was designed to smear the agency.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Mrs. Roosevelt Is to Testify

FEB 28 1942

Bill Designed to End Vicious Policy In Use in Southland

WASHINGTON (ANP).—Poll tax and its evils will get a thorough going over on March 12, when the U. S. Senate sub-committee on judiciary conducts hearings on the evil. Witnesses, including Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, will appear to urge the abolition of the tax. The hearing is on the bill introduced by Senator Claude Pepper, Democrat, of Florida.

Known as Senate Bill 1280, it calls for abolition of the poll tax in all Federal elections on the grounds that the poll tax is not a qualification for voting within the meaning of the Constitution.

Economic discrimination caused by the taxes will also be discussed during the hearings.

When the poll tax was removed in three Southern States, the number of voters rose far above former levels. In North Carolina, the vote went up 70%; in Louisiana, 90%, and in Florida, 140%.

The poll tax still remains in eight Southern States: Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Arkansas, Virginia, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.

Members of the sub-committee on the judiciary include: Senators Van Nuys, of Indiana; Tom Connally, of Texas; O'Mahoney, of Wyoming; Chandler, of Kentucky; Doxey, of Mississippi; Norris, of Nebraska; Austin, of Vermont; Danaher, of Connecticut; Wiley, of Wisconsin, and Burton, of Ohio, the last five being Republicans and the former Democrats.

FEB 28 1942

It is practically the same group that heard the anti-lynch bill when it came before the committee.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Leading Americans to Urge Anti-Poll Tax Bill At Hearing

MAR 8 - 1942

(Special to the Sunday Worker)

WASHINGTON, March 7.—Preparations were being made this week-end by a number of organizations and leaders to testify in behalf of Sen. Claude Pepper's anti-poll tax bill when it comes up for a hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday.

Among those who are expected to testify in behalf of the bill are: Frank P. Graham, president of the University of North Carolina; Dr. Will W. Alexander, head of the Federal Farm Security Administration, and numerous labor, civic, Negro and other organizations.

President Roosevelt, Philip Murray, William Green, John P. Davis of the National Negro Congress, A. Philip Randolph of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, Walter White of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, J. G. Luhrsen of the Railway Labor Executive Association, are among those who have expressed opposition to the poll tax.

The poll tax serves to disfranchise millions of Negro and white citizens in eight Southern states. It helps to keep in Congress such unrepresentative men as Martin Dies who seek to disrupt and sabotage the nation's war effort.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Hatch Act Issue Is Raised On FSA Loans For Poll Tax

MAR 3 - 1942

WASHINGTON, March 2—(AP)—An appropriations subcommittee of the House has called on the Civil Service Commission to determine whether the Hatch Act has been violated in the use of Farm Security Administration loans to pay poll taxes in Alabama, committee records disclosed today.

In testimony made public today, the committee was told by Robert K. Greene, judge of the Hale County, Alabama, probate court, that FSA money had been made available to farm clients of the organization for poll tax payments in order "to use them as a pressure group, to bring pressure on congressmen and senators."

This was hotly denied by C. B. Baldwin Farm Security Administrator. He conceded that some of the proceeds of loans to Alabama clients probably had gone toward the payment of poll taxes, but he added that the FSA "would make no loan to influence an election or an attempt to build a political organization of any sort."

MAR 3 - 1942

Nevertheless, Chairman Tarver (D), Georgia, disclosed later in the hearing that at the direction of the subcommittee he had submited to the Civil Service Commission two affidavits on the poll tax charges. He said he requested that the commission president "have a proper investigation made to determine whether or not the officials in question are subject to removal under the provisions of the Hatch Act."

The Hatch Act forbids "pernicious political activities" on the part of Federal employes. Tarver said the commission promised to investigate the charges.

Secretary Wickard told the committee he thought it was not correct to say that Federal funds were being used to pay farmers' poll taxes. Actually, money was being loaned for rehabilitation and the farmer must repay the loan, he said.

MAR 3 - 1942

An essential step in the farmer's rehabilitation, he argued, is the payment of debts, including delinquent taxes.

"We cannot instruct the farmer to pay everything else before he pays the poll taxes," the secretary testified. "That, in effect, would be disenfranchising him. When you look at the thing in the proper light and consider the real intent, I do not believe the practice will seem to you to be fundamentally wrong."

He added, however, that if it developed that the practice had been used to influence the farmer's vote it "should be condemned."

MAR 3 - 1942

Baldwin subm itted for the record a letter in which E. S. Morgan, regional director of FSA at Montgomery, Ala., said that "the loan to pay poll taxes is incidental to a plan of rehabilitation and is not an isolated or independent or political effort."

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

FSA Poll Tax Issue Still Stirs Congress

MAR 6 - 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—The question of FSA payments to farmers and the usage made of these payments, as far as poll taxes are concerned, brought a vigorous warning from Senator Carter Glass of Virginia to C. B. Baldwin, administrator of the FSA, in the following words:

"I don't think it has been done and anyone who does it should go to jail." He was referring to Virginia. "I would warn you not to go into Virginia and pay anyone's poll tax or loan money for payment of poll tax."

Glass then read penalties of the Virginia constitution and statute for payment of poll tax by persons other than the voter.

MAR 6 - 1942

"The trouble is you are giving them (FSA clients) freedom to vote when the constitution and statute say they haven't the right of vote."

The trouble arose when it was discovered that in Alabama money was being loaned farmers to pay their back debts, including the poll tax. Negroes had been denied this privilege, although the matter had been brought to the attention of the FSA administrator.

Various excuses were offered by officials of the FSA as to why Negroes had been excluded from receiving the same benefits as the whites and the controversy grew so warm, President Roosevelt himself stepped in and told his press conference he had erred in a previous statement. All kinds of taxes are part of farm budgets and poll taxes properly are included.

MAR 6 - 1942

Administrator Baldwin was trying to tell the joint economy committee that these loans were being made in an effort to bolster meager farm incomes and that there is no way of determining whether poll taxes are paid from the farmer's own money or with fededal funds.

MAR 6 - 1942

An investigation by the American Farm Bureau federation precipitated the debate on the poll tax matter.

52e-1942
The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Poll Tax a Burden On U.S. War Effort

MAR 15 1942

(Sunday Worker Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON, March 14.—Observers here feel that the current drive to abolish the poll tax, now being highlighted by the Senate hearings on the Pepper measure, is more than a movement to restore democratic government to the eight Southern poll-tax states.

It is viewed by many observers here as a determined effort to bolster the morale of the Southern people and strengthen the President's hand in Congress by removing one of the main obstacles to his war program—the tory poll-tax bloc both in the House and Senate.

Reactionary Southern Congressmen and Senators, who have been returned to their seats election after election, because 12,000,000 Southern workers and farmers are prevented from voting against them by the poll tax, have lined up time and again with appeasement Republicans to harass and undermine the President.

BYRD CHIEF SNIPER

Chief sniper at the administration's domestic war program has been Senator Harry Byrd of Virginia, who as chairman of the Joint Committee to Investigate Non-Essential Expenditures, has been having a field day attacking such agencies as Farm Security, the Office of Civilian Defense and the Office of Government Reports.

MAR 15 1942

Byrd, big apple orchard grower, was elected by 16 per cent of the eligible voters in his district in 1940—the poll tax disqualified the majority of residents. It is easy to understand, therefore, why he made such a terrific rumpus when disgruntled Probate Judge Greene of Alabama, brother-in-law of poll-taxer Rep. Sam Hobbs of Alabama, testified that the Farms Security Administration was aiding rehabilitated farmers to pay up their back poll taxes.

Practically all of the labor-baiting speeches in the House of Representatives these days, and they are now as numerous as before Pearl Harbor, are the orations of gentlemen elected from poll-tax states.

The farm bloc in Congress, made up mostly of Southerners, is deliberately seeking to further inflate the high cost of living by granting higher prices to the big farmers and has been playing havoc with the Department of Agriculture's 1943 appropriation bill.

MAR 15 1942

BACKED DIES

Staunchest defenders of the Dies Committee have been the Southerners, who really went to bat for continuation of the committee headed by the poll-tax gentleman from Orange, Texas.

The explanation for all the havoc caused by the tory Southerners in the House and Senate is simple enough. The poll tax simply keeps the workers and farmers in the South from expressing their resentment at these reactionaries and putting them out of office.

The hearings on the Pepper bill, S. 1280, to abolish the poll tax as a requirement for voting in federal elections have demonstrated the widespread support throughout the entire country for abolition of this undemocratic practice.

MAR 15 1942

A special sub-committee of the Senate Judiciary Committee headed by Senator Joseph C O'Mahoney of Wyoming, and including Senators Murdock of Utah, Norris of Nebraska, Connally of Texas and Austin of Vermont, have been listening to the nationwide cry to abolish the poll tax and give the Southern people an oppurtunity to express themselves.

It is estimated that close to

POLL TAX

12,000,000 people are disfranchised by poll tax requirements in eight Southern states—Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Arkansas, Virginia, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.

MAR 15 1942

While the Pepper measure calls for abolition of the poll tax only in federal elections and primaries, on the grounds that the poll tax is not a true qualification for voting within the meaning of the Constitution, it would be an opening wedge to force elimination of the tax in state and local elections.

Representatives of the CIO, AFL, Railroad Brotherhoods, leading Southern educators and journalists, spokesmen for all the Negro organizations and a wide host of progressive and civil rights groups, have been appearing before the subcommittee to demand that Congress "break the ice" in abolishing the poll tax.

As one of the witnesses testified, "a dollar ain't much—if you've got it," but the majority of Southern workers and farmers just don't have it to spend on paying up their poll tax.

TAX GROWS YEARLY

Southerners who have testified before the subcommittee have also exploded the myth that the poll tax amounts to just a dollar. They have pointed out that in most of the poll tax states it accumulates from year to year. In Georgia, for example, a man 28 years of age who was behind in his taxes, would have to pay $15.15 before he could vote. In Alabama, a voter might have to pay $36 before he could cast his ballot.

While all the effects of the poll tax as a a blot on democracy in the South were brought out by witnesses appearing before the Senate Committee, many of them failed to point out the stimulating effect that abolition of the tax would have in enthusing the Southern people toward further support of the war and in removing Southern tories from Congress.

MAR 15 1942

It has been a weakness of the hearings so far that the majority of witnesses appearing have failed to bring in the national effects of the poll tax. This could easily be remedied by more support from progressive organizations sending delegations to the hearings to make their position known.

MORE PRESSURE NEEDED

One indication of the need for greater support of the Pepper bill and more pressure on Senators to back it, is the revelation by Senator O'Mahoney that the subcommittee has serious doubts about the constitutionality of the measure and leans toward a constitutional amendment instead of the Pepper Bill.

MAR 15 19

Of course there are constitutional aspects which may be in dispute, but they can be solved. Supporters of the Pepper measure point out that Congress has a "Clear mandate" to act under the 14th amendment by limiting the representation in Congress of states which place restrictions on the voting of citizens in federal elections, and also under Article 4 which guarantees every state "a republican form of government."

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Poll Tax Hit For Impeding Colored Allies

MAR 15 1942

Agar Says Repeal Would Spur War Effort by Colonial Peoples

MAR 15 1942

By Eva Lapin

(Sunday Worker Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 14.—Abolition of the poll tax would not only stimulate America's war effort but would substantially aid the 26 United Nations in their battle against the axis by "electrifying" the people of India, Burma, Malay and other countries, witness after witness declared today at the hearing on the Pepper anti-poll tax bill.

"Our most numerous allies in this war are the colored people," Herbert Agar, Editor of the Louisville Courier Journal, told the Senate Subcommittee. "I am sure you all agree with me that if we lose those allies—if we lose Asia—we are likely to lose the war.

MAR 15 1942

"The only way to keep Asia on our side is to show that we believe in the American ideal 'of all men are equal'," Agar declared. "One easy way to begin proving that is to get rid of the poll tax," he added.

John P. Davis, National Secretary of the National Negro Congress, referring to the propaganda of Hitler and the Japanese among the darker races, using the existence of the poll tax in America as a weapon, stated:

"The United Nations must take the offensive against Hitlerite attempts to turn this struggle raging in the world from a war of all decent forces against Nazi tyranny into a war between races of people."

"Is our potential margin of victory over the forces of Hitler and Hitlerism so great that we can neglect to substantially multiply the enlarged contribution of 10,000,000 American citizens to America's war effort through giving them the right to vote?" Davis asked eloquently.

MAR 15 1942

A "WAR MEASURE"

Other witnesses at today's hearings who termed the Pepper bill S. 1280, which abolishes the poll tax as a requirement for voting in Federal elections, a "war measure" and urged its adoption as a vital step toward full mobilization of the human resources of America in winning the war, included:

Julius G. Luhrsen, spokesman for the Railroad Brotherhoods, Milton Weston of the International Workers' Order, Jeannette Welch of the Alpha Kappa, Negro Women's Sorority, and Susan B. Anthony, II, of the CIO Women's Auxiliaries.

Agar, who stated that today "under the hammer of Hitler" we must "push forward the American ideal of free men," told Senators O'Mahoney and Austin who were present at the hearing:

MAR 15 1942

"I think the poll tax is a symbol of undemocracy in a world which must stand or fall by its fidelity to the democratic creed."

Senator O'Mahoney stated he believed that the members of the committee all agree that "the poll tax system is contrary to the fundamental system of free government," but asked Agar whether he did not think that a "constitutional amendment" would be better than Congressional legislation.

FOR IMMEDIATE LAW

The Southern journalist replied that "the nature of the struggle in which our world is now in," and the Japanese propaganda in Asia exploiting this blot on American democracy made immediate legislation imperative and not "comfortable 19th century methods."

Senator O'Mahoney indicated throughout today's hearing that he and the committee were mostly concerned with the constitutionality of the Pepper bill or whether Congress had the power to act.

MAR 15 1942

Answering this issue, John Davis told the Senators in his testimony that "the framers of our Constitution did not intend to draft a document which was so limited in its meaning as to prevent the Congress of the United States from passing such laws as are essential to winning a war, the outcome of which will determine whether we will have a Constitution or not."

Senator Claude Pepper, sponsor of the measure, declared that recent Supreme Court decisions made it plain Congress had power to act in regulating federal elections. He stated that when hearings are resumed next week, constitutional authorities will testify on the legality of the measure, and he also indicated that "scores of organizations," including the Catholic and Methodist Churches, have asked to be heard in support of the bill.

UNION SPOKESMEN

Other witnesses appearing today were William Mitch and Bernard Borah, of the United Mine Workers in the South, Hollis B. Reid and Martin Miller, representing railroad unions, Henry Hill Collins, Edgar C. Brown for the United Government Employes, Perry W. Howard for the Colored Elks Order, and Homer Wilson, International Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers Organizer who was tarred and feathered in Roane County, Tennessee, for his union work. MAR 15 1942

Every witness stressed the importance of Congress initiating action to abolish the poll tax and expressed the conviction that a constitutional amendment was not the way to really tackle the evil.

The trade union spokesmen pointed a finger particularly at the Southern poll-tax bloc in Congress as the outstanding labor-baiters in both houses. other witnesses made it clear that the poll tax was "a national issue," not just a southern problem since the poll tax representatives in Congress, through their stranglehold on the most important committees, and their large reactionary vote exercised an important influence on national legislation. MAR 15 1942

Declaring that "the British government through its significant actions with regard to dominion status for India has indicated that it understands the relation between the democratic right of franchise and the all important job of winning the war," National Negro Congress Secretary added:

"Anti-democratic 'poll-tax restrictions as usual' like 'business as usual' retards and endangers America's program for victory."

AIDS FRIENDS OF HITLER

Davis referred to those who oppose the poll tax as "forces who either wilfully or blindly follow the appeasement policies of America's Cliveden set, and naturally enough —from their point of view, don't want to be defeated for federal public office through enfranchisement of millions of loyal democratic America."

He pointed out that the poll tax "bears more heavily" upon the Negro people and added that their almost complete exclusion from the franchise "injures America's effort to reach the goal of complete national unity, both by seriously impending the war efforts of the Negro victims of the poll tax evil, and as well by lowering the morale of Negro people in other sections of our country." MAR 15 1942

Enfranchising the Negro voters of the Souuth" Davis declared "is a war measure of gravest importance to our country's victory program."

St. Petersburg, Fla., Times
March 16, 1942

Editor Favors Poll Tax Ban

WASHINGTON.— (AP) —As a means of showing the world that "racial prejudice" has been overcome in this country, abolition of the poll tax as a prerequisite for voting was urged yesterday by Herbert Agar, editor of the Louisville, Ky., Courier-Journal.

Appearing in support of legislation for this purpose by Senator Pepper, Democrat, Florida, the tall author and editor told a senate subcommittee:

"The result of a poll tax is to keep the poor from voting or the negroes from voting or both. If you keep the poor from voting you make a joke of Jefferson. If you keep the negroes from voting you make a joke of a part of the Constitution. If you do both these things at the same time you may make a joke of the American idea."

The Pepper bill would forbid the collection of a poll tax as a voting requirement in a federal election.

It is aimed at levies now imposed in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

Pepper argued that congress, in a federal election, had the duty of protecting every citizen's right of franchise.

TODAY'S TALK

BY A. N. FIELDS

WHERE DEMOCRACY FAILS; POLL TAX A CRIMINAL ELEMENT IN NATIONAL GROWTH

MAR 21 1942 Pittsburgh Courier

The Pittsburgh Courier, the paper which leads with the news, making it possible for others to follow with information, told the world the story and gave the name of the mess boy at Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, who carried on against the Japs when the white officer manning the anti-aircraft gun had fallen at his post. Dorie Miller, the Pearl Harbor hero, the mess boy who had no opportunity of rising beyond that capacity in our American navy, and, of course, was not included among those referred to by Secretary of Navy Knox in his classification of that branch of our national defense "has the heart of the nation," proved by his action that there may be some difference of opinion as to who and what type of men are really the heart of the nation.



A. N. Fields

Pittsburgh Pa.
MAR 21 1942

A REPUBLIC GROWS INTO A DEMOCRACY

Reference to the Secretary's remarks is not intended as criticism, because his concept is the tape by which this particular minority group is measured in social and political economy by the American government. It has been a great effort for this country to bring itself from a republic to a democracy. Democracies are not reached by leaps and bounds, and, in America, there have been many mountains to climb, obstructions breeded through corruption, desire for power, and selfishness. A nation in which some six or eight southern States, through criminal poll tax legislation, cannot speedily develop into a democracy where a government is operated by a white minority group who obtain their power and control in governing affairs through illegal processes of nullifying the opportunity and legal rights to vote of hundreds of thousands of citizens cannot, in any sense, be regarded as a democracy.

DWINDLING MINORITY RULES BY POLL TAX

MAR 21 1942

Just a few days ago, in the Senate of the United States, the highest law-making body of our national government, the preservers of our liberty, and the so-called mainstay of our Constitutional rights, was told by Silliman Evans, publisher of The Chicago Sun, that poll tax requirements have so restricted the ballot in poll tax States, that all political decisions are made by a vote of a steadily dwindling minority." Yet, we call ourselves a democracy. It is quite true that this restriction has completely defeated the constitutional aims of our national government. Such states as Florida, Tennessee, Texas, Arkansas, Alabama, Mississippi, and Georgia, whose senators and congressmen occupy and control key spots in affairs of government, in both House and Senate, yet these very senators and congressmen are elected to Congress by political machinery which gives only an expression to a very small percentage of electors in their different States, gives further attestation to the fact that America is not yet a democracy.

UNFORTUNATELY for the weak and defenseless majority, whose political rights are obviated by the poll tax system, they cannot even get a fair trial in the courts of the State. Their inability to vote excludes them from having anything to say as to how the police powers under which they live are exercised. It is not unnatural that these senators and congressmen should fight against the abolishment of the poll tax. They know that the abolishment of the poll tax would mean also their abolishment in public office. They know that if the citizenry of their respective States were allowed to enjoy their constitutional rights of citizenship, men of differnt intellectual calibre and spiritual understanding would be elected to public office.

GEORGIA LANDLORDS VOTE FOR SHARECROPPERS

It was testified to in the Senate of the United States at the poll tax hearing by Mrs. Lucy Randolph Mason of Atlanta, Ga., that in certain "voteless sections of Georgia, landlords purchase poll tax en bloc and 'vote' their sharecroppers." This leaves little to be said in condemnation of the spiritual attitude of the aggressor nations we are fighting. America cannot continue to deceive herself. Charity, decency and human respectability must vindicate itself at home.

Houston Post

Ballot May Be Short

POLL TAX payments are off nearly 9 per cent this year in Texas, totaling about 115,000 fewer than in 1940, the last election year, State Comptroller George Sheppard announces. Houston, Texas However, the decrease in number of candidates for State offices is much greater than that. Thus far no opponent has shown up against Governor Coke Stevenson or Attorney General Gerald Mann, and only one has announced against Senator W. Lee O'Daniel. There are only two or three contenders for railroad commissioner, as against 19 in the last race. Few are announcing for county and district offices, and the unprecedented dearth of legislative candidates, combined with the resignations and prospective resignations of members going to war or into other work, threatens a real shortage of lawmaking material.

Thus, in view of the lack of interest in politics, the State's voting strength is rather remarkably large —1,144,176 poll tax receipts, plus 41,526 exemptions, Mr. Sheppard says. And he estimates that the unreported exemptions, plus Brazoria county payments which had not been received when he made the announcement, would increase the total voting strength by 15 per cent.

If either Judge James V. Allred or Dan Moody enters the senatorial contest against O'Daniel, this doubtless will be the headline attraction of the season's political card—the only outstanding tussle. Next in importance and interest will be the railroad commissioner's race, with Lester Boone of Fort Worth probably giving Ernest O. Thompson his hardest competition for reelection. Three or four State senators have threatened to run for lieutenant governor, but campaigns for that office seldom raise much dust.

There probably will be some red-hot congressional races, but none in Harris county unless opposition to Albert Thomas develops. Two potential candidates have been mentioned, but neither has announced, and the dogwood is probably blooming by now.

MAR 28 1942

Poll tax payments, short though they are, probably will be sufficient to meet the political needs this year.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

Louisville Publisher Urges Poll Tax Repeal To Offset Propaganda Spread By Axis

MAR 15 1942

Herbert Agar Tells Senate Judiciary Subcommittee That Step Would Check 'White Supremacy' Charges In Asia—Constitutionality Questioned

By G. O. ROBINSON JR.

From The Commercial Appeal Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, March 14.—Herbert Agar, editor of the Louisville Courier-Journal, told a Senate Judiciary Subcommittee Saturday that elimination of the payment of poll taxes for voting would help counterattack "the propaganda being spread in Asia by Tokyo and Berlin that the United States believes only in the supremacy of the White race."

MAR 15 1942

At the same time, the question of the constitutionality of the Pepper Bill to remove poll taxes as a prerequisite for voting for national offices, on which hearings are being held, arose when Senator O'Mahoney of Wyoming, subcommittee chairman, observed that "one of the most important considerations in the world crisis today is the preservation of local self-government" and asked:

"Wouldn't it be better to propose a constitutional amendment in the states having poll tax payments so that there will be no question but that the change would be made under constitutional law?"

Valiant Fight Cited

In a colloquy with Mr. Agar on the spread of propaganda among the Asiatics on white supremacy, Senator O'Mahoney said "the valiant fight being made by General MacArthur and the Filipinos is evidence that the United States holds no restrictive on the brown race and believes in their independence."

MAR 15 1942

One of a large group of liberals, labor representatives and leaders of negro organizations testifying today, Mr. Agar opposed, along with the others, a suggestion for a constitutional amendment because of the slowness of the procedure and the likelihood that the amendments would not be approved because those who are fighting to lift the restriction are those "unable to vote."

The committee also was told by John P. Davis, national secretary of the National Negro Congress, that "enfranchisement of the negroes in the South is part of the war effort" in the campaign to obtain national unity and suggested that unless this is done "Fifth Columnists will attempt to array one group against another and stir racial antagonism."

'Grievous Harm Done'

"The poll tax does grevious harm to my country," Mr. Agar said. "The great state documents that have made our people proud have talked in terms of 'all men.'

"The important question is whether our United States is to go down the same drain that has taken so many free nations. I think the poll tax betrays the United States.

MAR 15 1942

"We have to beat the barbarians who are trying to kill our world. We also have to suppress within our own hearts the weaknesses and sins which made it possible for this barbarian revolt to arise.

"I think the poll tax is a good symbol of our sins. It is a symbol of undemocracy.

"Our armed forces," he said, "are fighting for the greatest cause in history—the cause of the human race. It is important for us Americans here at home to decide whether we believe in the human race. A good way to prove it would be to show the world we are doing our best to overcome part of our original sin, which is racial prejudice.

MAR 15 1942

"A good first step in that direction is to get rid of the unAmerican poll tax."

"The question before the committee," Senator O'Mahoney then said, "is not so simple as the idea presented. All committee members might agree that the poll tax ought to be abolished.

"I think it should. But in free states and free counties, the people should rule and have the power to express their desires at the ballot box. The Federal Government is set up under a constitution which recognizes the sovereignty of states and the Federal Government can do only so much.

"One of the results of oppression is that those oppressed will eventually revolt. But the idea of our Government is to obtain results by reasoning and co-operation and not by force."

Would Force Action

"This bill would have the effect of compelling states to follow a certain course. Do we have the right to do that?"

Mr. Agar declared that "in view of recent decisions, I think the Supreme Court would support this kind of a bill."

J. G. Luhrson, executive secretary of the Railway Labor Association, told the committee that "the state poll tax instinct is carried forward by unfavorable labor bills" and charged that "most of the criticism of labor recently has come from poll tax states."

"But they should see the light," he said, "because their representatives are not chosen by the full electorate," and added his files showed that of antilabor legislation offered in Congress, 18 of the total were introduced by representatives from poll tax states.

Figures were offered showing that in the presidential election of 1936 that only 99,830 persons voted in South Carolina out of a total population of 2,915,841, but total population of 1,899,804 and only 308,427 in Tennessee out of a population of 2,915,841, but population of 2,845,627.

Comparison Is Made

Declaring that 6,279,396 voted out of a population of 13,479,442 in New York, Mr. Luhrson said that with the elimination of Tennessee and Texas, the total of the representation of the remaining pool tax states could negate representatives of New York despite the small percentage of the vote.

"The Federal Constitution," he said, "is necessary to hold the states together. I think Congress does have authority under the Constitution to maintain unity and not allow a few minority states to destroy the whole idea of Democracy."

MAR 15 1942

William Mitch of Birmingham, president of District 20 of the United Mine Workers, who said he was speaking for John L. Lewis, said, "We feel that local self-government is very essential, but we don't want local self-government by minority rule. There is resentment in the South against the poll tax. Thousands of workers, in labor and agriculture, are disenfranchised."

"Some Southern governors fear they might displease the minority who control the elections," Mr. Mitch said in pointing to apparent lack of interest, on the subject in the South.

"The racial issue," he said, "is injected by those who wish to maintain the status quo. Poll taxes are a dishonest restriction on the right of franchise. The financially fortunate maintain an advantage over the less fortunate."

Statistics were also given contending that in the 1936 presidential election, Mississippi and South Carolina voted a smaller total than 60 years ago although during the interim women have been given franchise.

MAR 15 1942

Milton M. Weston, negro, president of the International Workers' Order, which he said had membership in 44 states, said "election of representatives from poll tax states is not on the same basis as others," and decried the disparity of the total vote which exists in poll tax states and those not having poll taxes.

"In 1938, a referendum was held in Arkansas to abolish the poll tax," he said, "but only 13.1 per cent of the population voted. The same result would obtain in other poll tax states. Elimination of the poll tax would help eliminate the threat of Fascism."

Howard Asks Amendment

Perry W. Howard, negro attorney of Washington and Republican national committeeman from Mississippi, suggested the Pepper Bill be amended so that each political party should have representation in the registration of voters.

"In Mississippi," he said, "the Democrats take advantage of negroes. There is no appeal from the judgment of the clerk of the court.

"Registration is as much a prerequisite to voting as a poll tax. Otherwises, this bill won't do the colored people much good. Out of a total population of 1,008,000 colored people in Mississippi, only about 2000 vote.

As to the war effort, he said "we're going to send more colored soldiers than whites out of Mississippi."

MAR 15 1942

Mississippian Testifies

Bernard Borah, a native of Mississippi, and a representative of District 50 of the United Mine Workers of the South with headquarters at Knoxville, said that in the South "a small minority controls the elections and we do not have home rule."

"Poll taxes makes crookedness easier and breeds dishonesty," he said.

Charging that poll taxes are purchased for many citizens, he admitted at the same time under questioning by Senator O'Mahoney that "there have been occasions at Lafollette, Tenn. where persons were voted without poll tax receipts."

He further said that poll taxes are bought by many Tennessee employers for their employes and the payments taken out of their checks.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Va. Poll Tax Criticized at U. S. Hearing

MAR 13 1942

Senate Committee Hears Defeated Candidate Assail 'Undemocratic' Levy

MAR 12 1942

By the Associated Press.

Moss A. Plunkett, of Roanoke, Va., unsuccessful candidate for nomination as lieutenant governor of Virginia last year, criticized yesterday the assessment of a poll tax as a prerequisite for voting in Virginia as destructive of the "basis for political democracy."

Plunkett appeared before a Senate subcommittee holding hearings on a bill (S. 1280) by Senator Pepper (Democrat), Florida, forbidding imposition of a poll tax as prerequisite for voting in Federal elections.

He told the committee that as a candidate for lieutenant governor last year he had "a personal knowledge of the workings of the poll tax system." He said he visited every section of the State and met with "liberal people" in every section.

MAR 13 1942

85,000-Vote Handicap

"I was told very frankly," he said, "there was no possibility of matching the 85,000 votes which the poll tax crowd had to start out with and that it would cost more than $100,000 to overcome that handicap."

Plunkett testified before the committee as a representative of the Southern Electoral Reform League and its Virginia subsidiary, the Virginia Electoral Reform League, organized last year to oppose the poll tax requirement for voting.

Plunkett quoted at length from a report drawn up by the subcommittee of the Virginia Advisory Legislative Council headed by Dr. Robert K. Gooch, professor of political science at the University of Virginia, which recommended repeal of the Virginia poll tax.

He contended that when the report was submitted to the full council it was tabled and not made public.

MAR 13 1942

Shortages Are Cited

He told the committee that "block

payment" of poll taxes in Virginia was illegal, "but the General Assembly and local officials refuse to enforce it."

David George, who said he was from Hanover County, Va., testified that many county treasurers in Virginia had been short in their funds because they had marked poll taxes paid and then were unable to collect them from political leaders and organizations. MAR 13 1942

George said he knew from "personal experience" that in some counties poll taxes were paid and absent ballots used to carry elections when voters had no knowledge of either act until "ward heelers came around and told them how to mark the ballots."

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Editor Urges That Poll Tax Be Abolished

MAR 15 1942

Agar Appears in Support of Legislation Backed by Pepper.

WASHINGTON, March 14.—(AP)—As a means of showing the world that "racial prejudice" has been overcome in this country, abolition of the poll tax as a prerequisite for voting was urged today by Herbert Agar, editor of the Louisville, Ky., Courier-Journal.

Appearing in support of legislation for this purpose by Senator Pepper, Democrat, Florida, the tall author and editor told a senate subcommittee:

"The result of a poll tax is to keep the poor from voting or the Negroes from voting or both. If you keep the poor from voting you make a joke of Jefferson. If you keep the Negroes from voting you make a joke of a part of the constitution. If you do both these things at the same time you may make a joke of the American idea." MAR 15 1942

The Pepper bill would forbid the collection of a poll tax as a voting requirement in a federal election.

It is aimed at levies now imposed in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

Pepper argued that congress, in a federal election, had the duty of protecting every citizen's right of franchise. MAR 15 1942

J. G. Luhrsen, of Washington, executive secretary of the Railway Labor Executives' Association, said he had examined 23 recent anti-labor bills introduced in congress and found that 18 of them had been introduced by members from "poll tax states."

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Poll Tax Rule Cheats Honest Voters: Evans

MAR 13 1942

Cites Crump Of Memphis As Example

WASHINGTON —(SNS) — Silliman Evans, newspaper, publisher, told a Senate committee Thursday that the poll tax permitted "minority rule" and "cheating" of honest voters in eight Southern states.

Appearing as publisher of the Nashville Tennessean, Evans testified before a judiciary subcommittee that poll taxes enabled Ed Crump of Memphis "to build up a political machine that has no peer in the country."

MAR 13 1942

Evans appeared as a supporter to a bill by Senator Pepper, Democrat of Florida, which would outlaw payment of state poll taxes as a prerequisite for voting for federal officers.

The Tennessean said that the "Crump of Shelby County machine" controlled about 80,000 of Tennessee's 400,000 voters and that a man "can't expect to defeat a Crump-supported candidate who goes into a race with about 20 per cent of the votes in his pocket.

Evans said that in poll tax rites "certain groups see that poll taxes are paid" with the result that an "organized minority" controls elections.

Georgia, Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia are poll tax states.

Poll Tax Has Alibi

Houston Post MAR 14 1942

COMING from a newspaper publisher of ring-ridden Chicago, the charge made before the Senate judiciary subcommittee that the poll tax requirement in eight Southern States is conducive to the sale of votes, "one of the cornerstones of rapacious political machines," was a bit odd. But perhaps it is explained by the fact that the complainant was Texas' own Silliman Evans, one-time political prophet of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, now an invader of Yankee newspaperland.

MAR 14 1942

As an example of minority control through powerful bossism in a poll tax State, Mr. Evans, who also publishes a paper in Tennessee, cited the Crump machine of Memphis, the only one in the South with a Nationwide reputation. However, he did not mention the famous Kelly-Nash machine of his adopted home town of Chicago, where there is no poll tax, nor the Prendergast machine of Kansas City, where there is no poll tax, nor the Hague machine of New Jersey, where there is no poll tax, nor the Tammany machine of New York, where there is no poll tax, nor the great machine of New Jersey, where there is no poll tax.

If one were to judge by the prominence of existing boss rings, he would conclude that the lack of the poll tax affords more fertile soil for political corruption than the requirement of it. And when Mr. Evans has lived in Chicago a little longer perhaps he will learn that voters in registration States can be bought as well as those in poll tax States; that political machine bosses do very well without poll taxes, and that voter registrations can be manipulated quite handily through the use of obituary columns, vacant-lot addresses, and so on, in addition to outright vote purchases.

MAR 14 1942

There are some formidable arguments against the poll tax, the most meritorious one being that it disfranchises those who may feel unable to pay it, but who otherwise are entitled to the rights, lights and benefits of citizenship; setting a sordid little monetary price upon the privilege of participating in the government of their country. But if Mr. Evans made a case at all, it was in favor of the poll tax.

POLL TAX STATES HAVE REACTIONARY BLOC IN CONGRESS

MAR 21 1942

Pittsburgh Courier

WASHINGTON, Mar. 19—The country's eight States in which poll taxes are a prerequisite to the ballot are represented in Congress by 16 Senators and 78 Representatives occupying influential places and using that influence against types of legislation which not only affect the Negroes but whites as well.

Pittsburgh Pa.

Senator Ellison D. (Cotton Ed) Smith, of South Carolina, who led the 1937 filibuster against the Federal anti-lynching bill, was elected to the Senate in 1938 by 5.5 per cent of the voters in his district.

Representative Howard Smith of Virginia, who tried to scuttle the Wages and Hours Bill, attempted to nullify the work of the National Labor Relations Board, and fathered anti-alien legislation, was elected by 9.7 per cent of the voters in his district.

The knight-errant of the group is Martin Dies, from Texas, who was elected in 1938 by 7.7 per cent of the voters in his district.

These men represent a powerful group in the country who have consistently opposed the President's policies and battled hard to keep the nation from taking the offensive in the war against Hitler. Ten million citizens in their and the other five states can't vote because of the poll tax.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

White Testifies On Poll Tax Issue

MAR 21 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The poll tax, still imposed in eight southern states, is denying the ballot to nine million white and Negro Americans, and should be abolished, said Walter White, N.A.A.C.P. secretary, in his testimony at the hearing here March 17, on S.1280, Senator Pepper's bill to abolish the poll tax.

"The improper restrictions upon voting by means of poll taxes," said Secretary White, "were a menace to society during times of peace. During times of war, they are multiplied in their danger to imperiled national unity and safety."

White said the South itself will be the chief beneficiary of abolishing the poll tax. He said it would improve the quality of members of Congress, governors, and other officials elected from poll tax states, and would reflect the participation of all the people in the democratic process.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Senate Filibuster Looms over Poll Tax Repeal Bill

MAR 28 1942

(By ANP)

WASHINGTON

Although Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney, chairman of the Senate sub-committee holding hearings on the poll tax repeal bill, said he felt there would be a repeal of this pernicious law, mutterings of filibusters on the bill are beginning to fill the air.

Senator O'Mahoney said in his opinion it was just a matter of deciding whether the bill now before the Senate would pass or whether an amendment to the Constitution was necessary to make the repeal a reality and do away with the vicious practice which prevents thousands from voting in eight Southern States.

Yet on the other hand there is one Senator who is said to have promised a fifty-six-hour speech if the bill ever reaches the floor of the Senate. MAR 28 1942

Supported by other Senators from the poll tax States, he has vowed that such a bill would never pass unless cloture were voted in the Senate and he would fight this to the bitter end.

It is said that should the filibuster occur, the only recourse is to take the issue to the local State Legislatures for action, and it is the censensus that these individual States would surely kill off any attempts to repeal the law since, through it, many of the politics are kept in office.

52e-1942

POLL TAX

Poll Tax Bill Filibuster Due

P.M. Daily

Democratic Leader Barkley Plans to Bring Measure Up Today

N.Y. N.Y.

PM's Bureau

WASHINGTON, Nov. 13.—Threats to talk "until hell freezes over" came from Southern Democrats today as the Senate prepared to open debate on the Pepper-Geyer bill to abolish the poll tax.

Announcement by Democrat leader Alben W. Barkley (D., Ky.) that he would move to take up the bill today drew almost open threats of a filibuster from Southern poll-tax Senators.

Nov. 13, 1942

Using the customary double-talk of all filibusterers, they denied they planned a filibuster, but said the debate would last indefinitely.

"We are going to fight it until hell freezes over," Sen. Theodore (That Man) Bilbo (D., Miss.) told reporters. "No, we're not going to filibuster, but there are so many things involved in this measure that we will have to discuss it a mighty long time. We won't even finish it by Christmas."

Sen. Lister Hill (D., Ala.) also said the bill would be "very thoroughly debated," and Sen. Wall Doxey, (D., Miss.) said "every parliamentary weapon" would be used against the bill.

Speedy Action Essential

These statements had an ominous sound to supporters of the bill. They must pass it before Christmas or it will die after going most of the way through Congress. But they were cheered up by Barkley's decision to lead the fight for the measure.

As Democratic leader, Barkley will draw support from many non-Southern Democrats. In making his decision, he resisted strong pressure from his Southern colleagues. They showed him a letter from the Democratic chairman in Alabama asserting that the party's stand on Negroes was making it "utterly impossible" to raise campaign money in that State. (*Story on Page* 13.)

But Barkley announced to the Senate last night he would make the motion. Sen. Doxey immediately served notice that he would make a point of order against the Judiciary Committee's report on the bill, contending it was illegal because of the absence of a quorum.

Doxey obtained assurance from the presiding officer that the point of order would be debatable, indicating that the Southerners will use this device as their first filibustering weapon.

Indefinite Delay Possible

It will be possible for the Southerners to talk on the point of order until the Vice President shuts them off. Then they can talk indefinitely on the motion to take up the bill. If they are finally forced to vote on that, they can continue their filibuster against the bill itself.

Leaders of the fight for the poll tax reform realize they are up against a bitter fight. Under Senate rules any member can talk as long as he wishes and the Senate cannot vote until all Senators are talked out.

That makes it possible for a minority to delay action indefinitely, and block majority rule. To beat such a filibuster, a majority of the Senate must be determined to stay on the job and hold the Senate in session until the minority is exhausted, or until it is possible to get three-fourths of the Senate to vote in favor of shutting off debate.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

POLL TAX FIGHT IN SENATE

Senator John H. Bankhead during his visit to Alabama last week brough discouraging news for Alabama's poll tax advocates. He is quoted as saying that Congress is determined to pass the law abolishing poll taxes as a voting requirement, and that the Senate will probably approve the law in spite of all that can be done by the sixteen Southern senators representing eight Southern States in which the poll tax is levied. He feels that even a filibuster cannot stop the steam-roller, because of the cloture rule in the Senate by which a two-thirds majority can place limitations upon debate and bring any issue to a vote.

NOV 9 - 1942

The best lawyers in the Senate and House are convinced that the law would not be constitutional because of the inherent right of the States to fix voting requirements. In some of the American States a pauper is not permitted to vote. In others there are certain property qualifications. In others a voter must pay certain property taxes before he is eligible to vote on the issuance of public bonds. If Congress has the power to say that no State can require a poll tax paid to its school funds as a requisite for voting, the same Congress could easily say that no State has the right to deprive a man of his vote simply because he is poor, or because he hasn't a certain amount of property or doesn't pay certain taxes. This present poll tax movement is purely for political purposes and politicians seem determined to go through with it.

NOV 9 - 1942

When lawmakers are asked whether the Supreme Court would not quickly throw out this poll tax law even if passed, some of them shake their heads, indicating that it is hard to know what the Supreme Court will do, especially with any law having administration approval. This seems like too gloomy a view to take. The Supreme Court has handed down a good many decisions that seem revolutionary to old-line reactionaries, but the members of the court have certainly felt they were adhering strictly to the Constitution, being under as much obligation, for example, to regard the human welfare clauses of the great document as the due process and property clauses. The fact that on occasion they even tilt the balance in favor of human welfare when there appears a conflict between human and property rights is not any departure from the Constitution's principles, but rather a matter of interpretation of the great document in more modern and enlightened terms.

It cannot be said in advance how the court would rule upon the act of Congress fixing the voting qualifications of electors, but certainly the weight of legal opinion is that the Federal Government under Constitution is not permitted to make any such invasion of a right which the States have exercised since the earliest days of the Republic.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

ANTI-POLL TAX AFTERMATH

It is amusing to read indignant comment of up-country editors about how a small and vociferous group of Southern senators killed the anti-poll tax bill. It is true that in thwarting that ill-advised measure the South utilized to advantage the abilities of certain leather-lunged if not exactly silver-tongued spokesmen. The real cause of its defeat must be sought not in the last ditch stand of these opponents, but in the failure of the Senate to impose the gag rule that would have assured bringing it to a vote. A total of 41 senators voted against cloture. The eight poll tax States have 16 between them. Outside the eight States directly affected, there were thus 25 senators who, regardless of their views on the merits of the measure, refused to vote to gag the minority. This is of itself a heartening sign. It is evidence of realization among many of our Yankee brethren that it is not well to push a minority too far on an issue local in nature. The attempt to apply cloture failed to receive even a majority of the votes cast, the vote being 41 against it to 37 for, while a two-thirds majority is needed to apply it. By requiring a two-thirds vote to shut off debate, Senate rules thus tacitly make room for a filibuster and so far no majority has been willing to change those rules, because those in the majority might need them some day when they have become the minority.

Nov. 24, 1942

Reformers who bewail the action of the sinful Southern handful in beating the measure should cuss instead the Senate majority who in effect doomed it to defeat. Just as it takes a two-thirds vote to override a presidential veto, so the Senate by its rules has said that only by a similar vote will it steam-roller a determined minority who have gone to the last extremity in defense of what they deem the right.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

Norris, in Last Fight, Pushes Poll Tax Bill; Will Seek Cloture if Filibuster Is Tried

NOV 8 - 1942

By The U

WASHINGTON, Nov. 7—Senator Norris, Independent, of Nebraska, leading the last battle of his forty-year Congressional career, said tonight he would press for Senate action next week on legislation to outlaw poll tax payments as voting requirements in Federal elections. He was defeated Tuesday after serving in the Senate since 1913.

He predicted that the controversial measure, approved last month by the Senate Judiciary Committee, would be passed by the Senate. The House passed similar legislation by a 252-to-84 vote Oct. 13. Senator Norris said that he might seek to have the anti-poll tax bill called up when the Senate convenes Monday, but would prefer to have Senator Barkley, majority leader, take the initiative. He added that Senator Barkley had pledged his support for the measure and had promised to get the Senate to act on it at the earliest possible opportunity.

NOV 8 - 1942

Southern Senators conceded today that the bill would probably be adopted if brought to a vote, but declared that they hoped it would not be considered before this Congress expires on Jan. 3.

Senator Connally of Texas, asserting that the bill was "wholly unconstitutional," called on its sponsors to "quit kicking Southern Democrats around."

NOV 8 - 1942

He asserted that "now that the election is over" the "supposed political advantage to be secured by the passage of this bill can have no immediate value."

Senator Doxey of Mississippi said that there was "no great need of rushing this bill."

Senator Norris, however, pointed out that unless the bill was on the statute books by the end of this session its proponents would have to begin another long fight to obtain House consideraion, since it would die automatically when this Congress ends.

NOV 8 - 1942

Both Senator Connally and Senator Dozey discounted talk of a filibuster, but Senator Norris said he believed he could muster the necessary two-thirds vote to get a cloture rule to shut off any attempts to talk the bill to death.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala

POLL TAX BAN FACES FILIBUSTER

Southern Bloc Is Loser In Fight To Thwart Senate Action

GROUP MAY DEBATE 'UNTIL CHRISTMAS'

Nov. 1st 1942

Norris Charges Use Of 'Dilatory Tactics' In Heated Motion

WASHINGTON, Nov. 13—(AP)—Amid talk of filibuster, Southern senators Friday lost the first round in a bitter parliamentary battle to thwart consideration of the anti-poll tax bill passed by the House Oct. 13.

Senator LaFollette (Prog., Wis.) presiding, overruled an attempt by Senator Doxey (D., Miss.), to send the bill back to the Judiciary Committee on the contention that a majority was not present when the committee reported the bill favorably Oct. 26.

Senator Connally (D., Tex.), immediately appealed this ruling and Senator Bilbo (D., Miss.), arose to begin a debate which some opponents of the measure threatened privately might "last until Christmas."

Bilbo, his desk piled high with reference books, told his colleagues as he began speaking:

"We are going to vote on the (Connally) motion some time."

Cloture Rule Use Urged

The obvious intent of the Southerners was to talk the bill to death by preventing a vote until this Congress adjourns and a new Congress convenes in January. If that happened, sponsors of the bill would have to start from scratch again in both houses. Debate could be limited, however, if two-thirds of the Senate voted to invoke the cloture rule, a rarely-used method of cutting off discussion to bring about a vote.

The bill would outlaw poll taxes as a prerequisite to voting in an election where members of Congress and presidential electors are chosen. It would affect specifically Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, Texas, Tennessee, Virginia, South Carolina and Georgia.

Democratic Leader Barkley, of Kentucky, a non-poll tax state, brought the measure before the Senate with an unbeatable motion for its immediate consideration, an action Connally characterized as "an outrage tendered to Southern Democrats by our own party and our own leader."

Southerners Delay Action

Doxey countered with the point of order and a proposal to send the bill back to committee. The Southerners, many of whom were schooled in a successful 46-day filibuster against the anti-lynching bill in January and February of 1938, invoked frequent delaying quorum calls.

At one point they tried unsuccessfully to adjourn the Senate until Monday when only 44 of the necessary 49 senators answered to their names but lost on a voice vote. The sergeant-at-arms then was ordered to bring in additional members.

Senator Norris (Ind., Neb.), chief sponsor of the measure, arose to assert a little later that dilatory tactics were being used.

"If we are going to have a filibuster," he declared heatedly, "we might as well recognize it and fight it now. I make the point of order that we've had two other quorum calls and the motion is dilatory."

LaFollette overruled him, but leaders, recognizing the filibuster threat, arranged to call the Senate into an unusual Saturday session to put on additional pressure.

Senator McKellar (D., Tenn.), said he thought there was little use in causing the "horrible discord" he foresaw from the bill, especially in wartime.

Barkley acknowledged that he had "flung a firebrand" into the Senate, but added:

"I have been for this legislation from the beginning because I do not believe there is harmony in any theory of democracy that a man may fight, but not vote without paying a poll tax."

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

DIXIE POLL TAX GROUP GETS HELP

Maine GOP Senator Says Legislation Is Not Properly Offered

DOXEY BRINGS UP POINT OF ORDER

Controversial Bill Has Furnished Fuel For Five-Day Debate

Nov. 19 1942

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18—(AP)—A Maine Republican joined Wednesday in the Democratic tug-of-war in the Senate over the anti-poll tax bill and a close-knit group of Southerners counted on his vote to help them block the measure.

Senator White (R., Me.) refrained from discussing his views on the poll tax itself, but told his colleagues he believed the legislation had been improperly placed before the Senate.

Senator Doxey (D., Miss.) had raised that point of order, contending that a quorum of the Judiciary Committee was not present when the bill was reported favorably.

Even before the presiding officer, Senator Chandler (D., Ky.), overruled the point of order, White warned that he would be "compelled" to vote against consideration of the measure in the event of an adverse ruling.

Bill Not Before Senate

Although the controversial bill has furnished fuel for five fiery days of debate, it never has formally come before the Senate.

Majority Leader Barkley (D., Ky.) came closest to that goal Wednesday when opponents left the parliamentary gate just far enough ajar to permit him to move formal consideration of the bill. The motion, however, faced unlimited debate, and the Southerners spoke confidently of their ability to argue the motion a month, if necessary.

The bill, previously approved in different form by the House, will die unless passed by the end of the present session next Jan. 2. It would eliminate payment of a poll tax as a qualification for voting for federal officers in eight Southern states—Texas, Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, South Carolina, Arkansas, Tennessee and Virginia.

Barkley found a chance to make his motion after the Senate finally approved the Journal of Monday's proceedings—a time-consuming device used all day Tuesday by opponents of the measure.

Doxey Gets Support

Senator George (D., Ga.) as well as Senator White supported Doxey's contention that the bill had not been properly reported by the Judiciary Committee. White declared the committee disregarded all parliamentary rules by its action.

When one senator gives his proxy to another, the Maine Republican argued, he in effect is exercising the power to appoint another representative for his state.

Before the debate started, Senator Connally (D., Tex.), said that he and other opponents of the bill wanted to make their views on the poll tax question clear, to rebut charges that they were carrying on a petty filibuster. The Southerners planned to have one of their number deliver a major speech in the Senate soon in order to place their arguments before the country in detail.

"Some fundamental issues are involved in this fight," Connally declared.

Gov. Dixon Praises Men Aiding South's Fight

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Nov. 18—(AP)—Gov. Frank M. Dixon charged Wednesday that sponsors of the anti-poll tax amendment pending in Congress were "rendering a service to our enemies."

Dixon dispatched a telegram to Senator Tom Connally (D., Tex.), leader of the opposition to the bill, about the same time the state Senate received and referred to its rules committee a resolution by Representative Tram Sessions, Jefferson, passed by the House imploring the Senate not to pass the poll tax legislation.

The governor's telegram follows:

"You and the other senators who are carrying the fight against federal control of local elections deserve and will have the thanks and cooperation of the country. Those seeking to ram this vicious misguided reform legislation down the throats of a people at war, and thereby bringing disunity, are rendering a service to our enemies. Our people here and the believers in Democratic principals everywhere are anxiously watching and praying for your success. Please thank the other senators who are helping."

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

THE POLL TAX ELIMINATION

Herbert Agar, testifying before the Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee considering Senator Pepper's bill to abolish the poll tax in federal elections, said:

"I want to argue against the poll tax on the ground that it does grievous harm tomy country. And I want to argue against it on an even better ground—that it does grievous harm to our world. . . .

APR 4 - 1942

"We have a two-fold job on our hands. One, we have to beat the barbarians who are trying to kill our world. Two, we have to suppress within our own hearts the weaknesses and the wins which made it possible for this barbarian revolt to arise."

The Poll Tax, which was instituted more than forty years ago primarily to legally discriminate or disfranchise the Negro, has been going practically un-noticed until, like all other social injustices that start with the Negro, finally ends up doing the white people more harm than it does the Negro. Now the Southerners have discovered that only a small percentage of white people in eight states vote because of poll tax restrictions. Southern representativs in Congress perpetuate themselves in office by controlling these minorities through cliques. White office seekers now feel that they would have a better chance to win an election if the poll tax requirement was eliminated. Northern representatives in Congress believe if it was not for the poll tax evil in the South, many Southerners would not be able to head so many important committees as long as they do.

We do not believe the Negro figures in the abolishment of poll tax one way or the other. Some believe, and we agree that more Negroes inthe South would be totally disfranchised under the intelligence test and registration law as is practiced in Louisiana, than they would under the poll tax.

In Texas Negroes can vote in large numbers, that is as many as will pay their poll tax except in the democratic primary. But, in Louisiana, the Negro can not qualify in appreciative numbers to vote because of the registration test.

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The late Huey P. Long used the registration law on the white people very effectively to build his political machine which got control, and appointed the registrars who limited the opposition's power and voting strength through rigid registration tests. While we believe the poll tax should be abolished for the good of the government as a whole, we do not believe it will be much benefit to the Negro unless there is a CHANGE of HEART in those who GOVERN the POLITICAL MACHINERY.

Poll Tax Bill

MAY BE FORERUNNER OF FASCIST MOVEMENT TO UTILIZE NEGROES AND DIXIE WHITES

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

APR 18 1942 Pittsburgh Courier

I HAVE recently had a hunch about the poll tax situation. Some of my friends have thought that it wasn't such a good analysis but it is the only way I can make sense out of the behavior of John L. Lewis, the CIO, Senator Pepper and the Republican party.

I think that most political observers will admit that in view of the fact that there will be a terrific struggle for power in this country within the next few years, it is not unlikely that one or more parties might attempt to enfranchise the poor whites and Negroes in the South to bolster the strength of their constituents. It is too far in the future to say whether it will be a struggle between the Republican and Democratic parties (as we know them now) or between a Liberal and Fascist (or Semi-Fascist) movement as many persons fear. The fact remains that there has been enough preliminary courtship and experimental feeling-out to lead one to believe that sooner or later somebody's going after the poor whites and Negroes.



Mr. Cayton

MUST ORGANIZE ANTI-FASCISTS

Pittsburgh, Pa. APR 18 1942

Two groups stand out at the moment as the ones who are lining up their forces to invade the South. First there is Phil Murray, the CIO, and the Administration. Though many people might not believe it, I think that the CIO is much closer to the Administration than is industry. As it becomes more evident that a greater amount of internal democracy will be necessary to avoid internal fascism, the Administration, or at least the liberal party, will have to break with the reactionary Southerners, enfranchise the poor whites and Negroes and form a real anti-Fascist party.

MY contention is that our most important fight at the moment is against the growing internal fascist forces. It is evident that the continued appeasment of Fascists, of both the new and old variety, will lead only to a collapse of our present liberal government.

GOP-LEWIS MAY FORM COALITION

The second faction that may attempt to enfranchise poor whites and Negroes is the reactionary Republicans who will undoubtedly make a coalition with labor leader, John L. Lewis. For this group Lewis is a particularly important man as he still has much prestige in the labor movement and especially among the Negro masses.

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THE hope would be that if the Lewis-Republican crowd were instrumental in abolishing the poll tax the Southerners, black and white, would fall under that leadership. This would mean, as a matter of fact, a re-invasion of the South by Northern industrialists and a reactionary labor group in an effort to use the untapped voting power of the South to whip into line the liberal-labor elements of the North.

MAY USE RACE AS A WEDGE

Whether you will agree with this analysis or not I think it is pretty evident that the balance of power which has existed within the country is breaking down. In world politics, the balance of power has been shaken by the weakening of the British Empire and there will necessarily be a fundamental readjustment of power relations before a lasting peace (and that's a relative term) can be achieved regardless as to the military outcome of the present struggle. So internally, in most countries and certainly in this country, the old power relations will have to be re-vamped.

IN times of rapid social change when groups, classes, or factions are attempting to capture or retain control over the economic and political systems of a society, such superficial differences as color break down. To retain or gain the power which they want the Reactionary - Semi-Fascist groups will, in my opinion, use the Negro, not as a scapegoat but as a wedge to be driven into the liberal-labor front. Evidence of this has been shown I think in the sudden interest which reactionary newspapers have in playing up the Negro and the concern which reactionary politicians have verbalized about the black man and his problems.

APR 18 1942

IS THE LIBERAL GROUP AWAKE?

The question which faces the country is whether the stumbling, fearful, compromising liberal-labor elements will be able to meet the incisive, direct and brutal actions of the reactionary semi-fascist groups. Will the liberals have the insight, the courage, and the ability to act quickly enough to give to the masses of Negroes and poor whites the things which they want as citizens before they are given the hope of obtaining these things by reactionaries. Both the Negro and the poor whites of the South, strange as it may seem, may be the innocent tools of the coming fascist movement.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

COOPER TO RUN AGAIN, SEEK POLL TAX REPEAL

Governor Pledges Personal Plea If Given Third Term

STANDS ON HIS RECORD

Tennessee Chief Executive Promises To Go Before Legislature And Request State Registration Of Voters

By PAUL MORRIS
From The Commercial Appeal
Nashville Bureau

NASHVILLE, April 17.—Pledging to personally go before the 1943 Legislature and ask repeal of the poll tax as a prerequisite to voting, Prentice Cooper Friday announced his candidacy for a third term as governor of Tennessee. The 46-year-old bachelor Governor's statement was handed to reporters at the daily press conference.

"At last here is my announcement," he said, smilingly, "the one you have been asking about so much."

APR 8 1942

Follows Conference

Just previously the Governor had been in conference with State Personnel Director Bain Stewart, Treasurer John Harton, Secretary of State Joe Carr, Conservation Commissioner Charles Poe and other administration leaders.

In addition to pledging to ask repeal of the poll tax "in a special message" to the Legislature and the subsequent adoption of a statewide registration of voters, Governor Cooper said he favored "increased appropriations for education and for old-age assistance to the fullest extent consistent with the public interest."

APR 4 1942

Decision of a third term candidacy, subject to the Democratic primary Aug. 6, was based "upon my record," the Governor said.

Prominently mentioned as candidates to oppose the Governor are John Hooker, Nashville attorney and past president of the State Bar Association; J. Ridley Mitchell of Murfreesboro, former congressman, and A. B. (Jack) Broadbent of Clarksville, former secretary of state.

First Elected in 1938

Mr. Cooper, a native of Shelbyville, was first elected governor in 1938 when he defeated Gordon Browning, who was seeking a second term. He ran on a coalition ticket with Tom Stewart of Winchester, candidate for the United States Senate, and W. D. (Pete) Hudson of Clarksville, candidate for railroad and public utilities commissioner. Carrying the backing of Shelby County Political Boss E. H. Crump, who only a few months previous had broken with Browning, the Shelbyville attorney lost but few counties.

In 1940, running on a coalition ticket with Senator McKellar and Porter Dunlap who was up for re-election on the Railroad and Utilities Commission—Mr. Cooper was re-elected over George Dempster of Knoxville by the largest majority ever given a gubernatorial candidate. The Chief Executive lost only one county—Grundy.

His campaign for a third term will be with the support of the powerful Shelby political organization, the same as his two previous campaigns. E. H. Crump last Saturday reaffirmed his support of the Governor, along with similar support for Senator Stewart, up for renomination.

Taking up the poll tax in his announcement, Governor Cooper said he believed the present 60,000 Tennesseeans who "now have gone away to military service should not be handicapped by a poll tax in exercise of their right to vote by absentee ballot."

Pledges Personal Plea

Then he added, "I have previously advocated poll tax repeal and when the next Legislature convenes I shall personally appear before it and in a special message advocate its repeal, along with the enactment of a statewide registration law."

In 1938, running against Browning, Mr. Cooper also advocated repeal of the poll tax. In the following 1939 session of the Legislature, a poll tax repeal bill was permitted to die in committee, without any apparent effort on the part of Governor Cooper to retrieve it.

In 1940, running for re-election, Governor Cooper advocated repeal of the poll tax and after his nomination ran in the November general election on a Democratic platform calling for repeal. In the 1941 session of the Legislature, a repeal bill sponsored by Senator Weldon White of Nashville was defeated by administration leaders in the Senate with no effort by the Governor to save it or pass it.

30 Counties Repeal Fee

In his biennial message to the Legislature, Governor Cooper had declared that repeal was a matter "for the Legislature," and had said that if such a bill was passed he would sign it.

Following the legislative session, approximately 30 counties, principally in Middle and East Tennessee, have repealed their $1 portion of the poll tax, under authority of an opinion given by State Atty. Gen. Roy Beeler.

If re-elected, Governor Cooper will be the eighth chief executive to serve three consecutive terms since adoption of the present constitution in 1870. The last was the late Austin Peay of Clarksville.

Globe and
Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

WHY PAY POLL TAX?

Until the end of April, citizens due to pay the 1941 poll tax are privileged to pay only $1.01 for the precious right to vote in the elections of 1942. Considering the fact this is election year and one of the most important ever held in the state, it is difficult to have any patience with any individuals able to do so but who will not avail themselves of the opportunity to be listed as "first class citizen."

If, after the generous treatment Trustee McLure has given those who owe the tax, they refuse to pay, no sympathy should be given those who CAN PAY, if and when distress warrants are issued for the tax and garnishee proceedings are instituted to collect it. These individuals who have jobs and CAN PAY the tax most certainly are going to find themselves ABLE to pay when their wages are garnisheed.

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If for no higher reason than "fear of punishment" citizens will respond to the call for the poll tax, we offer the opinion that such "punishment" is just around the corner. One of the reasons so ably advanced to get one dollar of the two dollar tax taken off in this county was that at one dollar the county would collect even more money than at two dollars. We doubt that this contention has already been proved, but most certainly it can easily be proved if all or most of some 80,000 citizens of this county who now owe the 1941 tax will come forward and pay it.

The poll tax money goes for schools. No provision, we understand, has been made to get from other sources the sum the schools will lose as a result of reducing the poll tax to $1.00. No provision will have to be made if all delinquents will pay what they owe. Davidson County teachers, we understand, are REQUIRED to pay the tax by the County Board of Education, and they do it without any hardship. On the other hand, many of our city teachers do not pay their poll tax, although they know the money goes for schools. Teachers should be 100 per cent payers of poll taxes. They have a reason, aside from that of being prepared to vote, for doing so. They know better than anybody else how necessary it is for the cause of education to have money.

APR 9 1942

In 1942 the voting citizens of Davidson County will help elect a governor, a U. S. Senator, members of the legislature and many other officials. This county could easily match the strength of Shelby County if the citizens here would qualify to vote and vote.

This year, of all years, Shelby County should be "matched."

PAY YOUR $1.01 POLL TAX AT ONCE.

Gadsden, Ala., Times
April 19, 1942

Amazing Step At Montgomery

The thought that the way to relieve a water shortage is to dry the well is suggested by the action of the Alabama Congress of Parents and Teachers, when at a meeting in Montgomery, a resolution was passed "without a dissenting vote" under which higher pay for teachers and the abolishment of the poll tax were urged.

Members of the Congress obviously were paying little attention to the proceedings when this utterly inconsistent attitude was adopted "without a dissenting vote," since it undoubtedly would have occurred to some one, had the matter been given serious thought, that to cut off school revenues is a poor way to bring about conditions under which the pay of teachers may be increased.

Had the matter been given thought, it also would have occurred to some among the scores present that the poll tax, in addition to furnishing substantial financial support to the schools, is a promoter of good citizenship. Persons who willingly pay a small fee in order to maintain the right to vote certainly are more likely than any other element to have a deep and abiding interest in good government, proper support of schools, law enforcement, efficient management and all else that has to do with sound administration. And, by the same token, thought also might suggest that persons who think so little of such matters that they are not willing to pay a relatively small sum to the schools as a token of their interest in good government and good citizenship, are not likely to be highly concerned about such matters.

Emphasizing the thought that many of the delegates to the Congress must have been paying little or no attention to this matter, is the fact that many of these representatives were present from such South Alabama counties as Dallas, Bullock, Marion, Macon and others where the Negro population is much greater than the white population. Had the representatives from these counties given the matter any thought, it doubtless would have occurred to them that educational conditions would not be improved were preponderently colored counties to elect Negro representatives to the legislature and place Negro officials in charge of educational matters. Yet this is precisely what will happen in many instances if the poll tax provision is repealed. The poll tax is the white man's guarantee of supremacy in governmental matters and his safeguard against a return of the conditions that existed throughout the ghastly period of reconstruction.

The financial, social and political aspects of the situation being viewed in their true perspective, it is clear that somebody put something over on the delegates at Montgomery when they were thinking about other matters.

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

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APR 17 1942

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PAY YOUR $1.01 POLL TAX AT ONCE.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Tearing Down Soul Of Nation, He Contends

Registration Drive To Get Impetus By Sectional Sessions

APR 21 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C. — (ANP) Declaring that the south must stop practicing subterfuges which are tearing down the soul of the nation, Channing H. Tobias told a group of 200 persons at the National Press club that he stood for repeal of the vicious poll tax and all other restrictions against American citizens regardless of the circumstances that dictated them.

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Called by the National Committee for the Repeal of the poll tax, the meeting was presided over by Ed Keating, former member of the house of representatives.

Speakers included Edward L. Smith, CIO organizer who was Smith, who formerly was a member of the labor relations board. Mr. Smith said the poll tax is a powerful obstacle to victory and it should be uprooted at once and the retention of the poll tax in the southern states is a disgrace and a calamity.

HAMPERS WAR EFFORTS

The practice marks the Negro as an inferior political class, Mr. Smith told the group, and it has hampered the full participation of the Negro in the war efforts.

Prof. Lee, the first speaker, asked reforms in full and not "sneak reforms" which aimed restrictions at certain classes of citizens, especially where it concerned the Negro.

Rep. John Coffey of the state of Washington waxed eloquent on the repeal of the poll tax and named several of his colleagues as being in congress because of the poll tax. He specifically named Martin Dies of Texas; Howard Smith of Virginia and Eugene Cox of Georgia, all "obstructionists" of a sort, who represented a small class of the population even though congressmen from the poll tax states declare they have no political machines.

BLAST NEWSPAPERS

He further named Memphis with its Crump machine, recently whitewashed and cleared by a near-investigation; the Talmadge regime in Georgia; the former horrible conditions in Louisiana before the repeal of poll tax, and Texas, which gave to the senate "Pass the Biscuits Pappy" O'Donnell; the speaker of the house; the former vice president and chairman of eight important committees in the legislative body of the government, through the poll tax system as examples of the continuance in power of men through this method.

Aiding and abetting those men is the "kept press" with its 'canards against organized labor, radio commentators and newspaper blasts against labor,' all of which are products of the poll tax.

"The continuance of the poll tax is a menace to the existence of the United States. The Wages and Hours bill was held up two years on account of the poll taxers control of the rules committee which held up the bill," Mr. Coffey continued.

APR 21 1942

RACIALISM IS ATTACKED

Charging that the poll taxers are against the President and the head of the party of which they are nominal members, they have "stifled, stymied or emasculated every bit of progressive legislation offered," he said.

"In the interests of our future destiny, we should wipe out the poll tax and the sooner the better," Mr. Coffey said. "It is a calculated plan and scheme to deprive people of the right to vote. We had better begin at home with some of the charity we want to infuse in the rest of the world. Give all of the people something to fight for in this war. We will have to teach many folk that the civil war is over."

Mr. Coffey said there had not been an opponent against the two senators from Virginia in 20 years, that no one had the audacity to even oppose them in the primary of the state.

Dr. Tobias, the next speaker, declared that the trouble with the United States was due to the culture of racialism. As such, it has to be broken. He referred to Thomas Jefferson's part in the documents which made America famous, the bill of rights, the Declaration of Independence and others which Mr. Jefferson helped frame. They did not go far enough because they did not include any specific aid to the Negro since all were written at a time when the Negro was in slavery.

MUST BE REPEALED

It is important now, he said, when the nation faces its greatest crisis, that the south make up its mind to break up a culture the most costly to the cause of democracy in the world.

"Negroes are more interested that America should present a solid front to the world in the interests of democracy than in any privilege for themselves. It is impossible for the nation to present this solid front as long as one tenth of its citizens remain in some parts of the country in slavery and peonage. Therefore, it is important that the poll tax be repealed and the south take the risks that go with the repeal.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Repealing the Poll Tax

JUN 23 1942

An issue of the Washington Post of last week carried a full page advertisement, signed by the National Committee to Repeal the Poll Tax, which begins with the statement that "at his press conference on Feb. 13, the president denounced the levying of poll tax as a practice that has prevented many people of the South from voting." He said he had opposed such levies all his life.

CIO and AFL are both quoted as denouncing this levy.

The advertisement winds up with an appeal for funds and a request that the people demand passage of the Pepper-Geyer bill which would repeal the tax.

This newspaper, time and again, has pointed out that this opposition to the poll

tax stems from those subversive groups who aim at "the dictatorship of the proletariat." It is the same wing which would set up a new order in our American way of life.

In the first place, if we must assume that the Supreme Court of the United States knows its own mind from day to day, any such law as that proposed would be absolutely unconstitutional.

In the case of Breedlove vs. Suttles, which came up from Georgia in 1937, the Supreme Court ruled that—

The privilege of voting at state elections is not derived from the United States but is conferred by the state, and, save as restrained by the Fifteenth and Sixteenth amendments, the state may condition suffrage as it deems appropriate.

Section 9 of Ruling Case Law, pp. 979 says:

The courts have held with positive unaminity that the right of exercising the franchise is neither a natural, absolute, nor a vested right, of which a man cannot be deprived but by due process of law, but it is purely a conventional right, and may be enlarged or restricted, granted or withheld, at pleasure.

If the Supreme Court, as now constituted should overrule the long line of decisions on which the foregoing statements are based, it will be just one more invasion of state sovereignty, which we should fight with all our strength.

In another connection, it is shown in these columns today that more than 25 per cent of the men of military age are unable "to read and understand newspapers and write letters home." How can it be supposed that such people would vote intelligently?

Finally, the man who does not value the right to vote enough to pay $1 a year for the privilege of exercising it cannot be very deeply concerned with the welfare of his country, and should not be allowed to vote in the South or anywhere else.

Once more it should be borne in mind that this fight on the poll tax is but part of a larger and distinctly dangerous pattern and should be halted in its tracks.

Campaign to Kill Poll Tax Is On

The National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax has begun a campaign to force the Pepper-Geyer anti-poll tax bill out of committee, where it has been since Jan. 3, 1941.

The committee is seeking a discharge petition which would force the bill to the House floor. So far not more than 100 Congressmen have signed the petition. The signatures of 218 are needed.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

CUMULATIVE POLL TAX

The issue of cumulative poll tax will not be left to die for lack of agitation, according to latest advices from the women leaders of the Joint Legislative Council, for this militant group that has long led the movement to modify the voting statute intends to renew the battle in the 1943 Legislature.

Mrs. Albert Thomas, of Auburn, a member of the State Merit Board and council president, says that a new attempt will be made to pass a law permitting citizens to qualify or requalify as voters by paying two years' back poll taxes. She announced that Representative Mark Hodo, of Birmingham, had pledged himself to introduce such a constitutional amendment which would abolish the present requirement that a voter pay all poll taxes of $1.50 a year from 21 to 45.

In this respect, it will be remembered that Representative Hodo introduced such an amendment, to which Gov. Dixon was pledged, and led the House fight in the last Legislature, but it was killed. He also introduced the legislative reapportionment measure, and it suffered the same fate. It was apparent long before these measures ever came up for a vote that they were doomed to defeat, but Representative Hodo did his best to get them approved.

Both these questions were rather live issues in the 1938 campaigns in many parts of the state, but they were barely mentioned in the ones just completed. Yet it is likely that the cumulative poll tax measure will cause many ripples on the legislative mill pond this time, for the justice of such an amendment can hardly be questioned.

The Anniston Star has long contended that the poll tax law was justified, but has also consistently maintained that the cumulative phase should be discarded. Like Mrs. Thomas and the other women members of the Joint Legislative Council, we feel that two years' back poll tax is sufficient, and that no additional charges should be assessed against a new voter or one who is requalifying himself. —Anniston Star.

Out of 45 representatives in New York State, only three have signed the petition. Twenty-four Congressmen from the Metropolitan area have not signed.

The committee formed to help abolish the tax estimates that 10,000,000 American citizens are effectively disenfranchised in eight Southern states by the present poll tax system. Most of them are Negroes who cannot afford the tax.

These are your Congressmen in the metropolitan area who have not signed the petition:

New York Mir.

Joseph Clark Baldwin—R.	Leonard W. Hall—R.
William B. Barry—D.	Martin J. Kennedy—D.
Sol Bloom—D.	Michael J. Kennedy—D.
Charles A. Buckley—D.	Eugene J. Keogh—D.
Louis J. Capozzoli—D.	Arthur Klein—D.
Emanuel Celler—D.	Walter A. Lynch—D.
Thomas H. Cullen—D.	Matthew J. Merritt—D.
John J. Delany—D.	James O'Leary—D.
Samuel Dickstein—D.	Donald L. O'Toole—D.
James Fitzpatrick—D.	Joseph L. Pfeifer—D.
Ralph A. Gamble—R.	William T. Pheiffer—R.
Joseph A. Gavagan—D.	Andrew L. Somers—D.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Senator James M. Mead Urges Abolition Of Poll Tax As Necessary To Our War Effort

WASHINGTON, D.C.—"I believe that this is a most opportune time to abolish the poll tax, and I hope that the Senate will take early and speedy action on the Pepper Bill, S. 1280," said Senator Mead, on Wednesday.

"We must not only set up a second military front, but we must also set up a psychological front if we are to win this war for Democracy and for all which that word implies.

"We cannot expect those associated with us in other parts of the world to fight loyally on our side if it were to appear that we are only fighting to preserve our own existing system of government. We must be more realistic and prove to our allies that all of our own people enjoy and participate in the essentials of our system of government.

"So long as any group of our people at home are denied the privilege of voting or registering to vote in federal or local primaries or in the general elections by the legal compulsion of the payment of a poll tax, we are not in a good position to enlist the support of other nations for the establishment and maintenance of the four freedoms.

"Some of the advocates of the continuance of this sytem hide behind the cloak of the Constitution. The Constitution is the handmaid of freedom, not the footstool of slavery.

"Political freedom and the right to participate in our nation's politics is now denied to thousands of our fellow citizens in eight of the southern states. This denial should end without delay. There is no time like the present.

"By abolishing the poll tax we would prove to the world that while fighting for Democracy everywhere we have not overlooked it here in the United States."

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Rankin Rants On Poll Tax

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 2—Renewing his attacks on advocates of equal civil rights for colored people, Representative John E. Rankin from Topelo, Miss., directed his spleen in the House last Monday against proponents of the bill to abolish the poll taxes in Southern States and advocates of the March-on-Washington movement.

"This poll-tax movement," he declared, "is just the beginning of a series of such drives against the election laws of the various states."

"These agitators," Rankin said, "are determined to create trouble all over the country."

His outpouring was of the type that Japan has found useful for dissemination as propaganda among the colored peoples throughout the world, who are supporting the United Nations in their war against the Axis, and retards national unity in this country.

52e-1942

POLL TAX

The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.

FDR Backs Fight Against Poll Tax

WASHINGTON, D. C.—In a vigorous statement at his press conference on February 13, the President denounced the levying of poll taxes as a practice that has prevented many poor people in the South from voting. He said he had opposed such levies all his life. He recalled somewhat bitterly that among the members of Congress and newspaper columnists attacking the Farm Security Administration policy of permitting poll taxes to be included in budgeted loans are some who, seven years ago, proposed that WPA workers be denied the right to vote.

Legitimate

President Roosevelt corrected an earlier stand in opposition to the FSA policy and said the agency properly considered these levies a legitimate part of its lending operations.

Upon investigation, he said, he found that the agency is not paying poll taxes directly, but merely permits them to be included among necessary living expenses upon which deficit loans are based.

Taxes of all kinds are part of these budgets and it is proper that poll levies be included, he said.

Second Attack

This was not the President's first attack on the poll tax. In 1936 Mr. Roosevelt strongly condemned the poll tax in a letter to Brooks Hays, Democratic national committeeman fro Arkansas, during the course of a statewide campaign to repeal the tax.

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Dixie Congressmen Aroused Over Effort To End Poll Taxes

MAR 15 1942

Alabama Delegation Opposed To Measures To Eliminate Levy

BY CARROLL KILPATRICK
Special Washington Correspondent
For The Birmingham News

WASHINGTON — After all these years, states' rights is again an issue—and a very live issue it is for Southern senators and representatives.

The battle raged here for the second day as testimony was continued Friday before a Senate judiciary sub-committee over whether Congress should, or had the right, to prevent eight Southern states from levying a poll tax as a prerequisite to voting for federal officers.

Alabama's two senators and nine representatives were on record as strongly opposed to the two bills now pending—the Geyer bill in the House and the Pepper bill in the Senate.

Senator Bankhead, the state's senior senator, expressed the feeling of the delegation when he branded the Pepper bill "an unjustifiable effort to invade the independent rights of sovereign states."

MAR 15 1942

* * *

MOST OF THE SOUTHERN members probably will vote with Senator Bankhead against the bill when and if it reaches the Senate floor. Only senators from Florida, North Carolina and Louisiana, states that have abolished the poll tax, could be counted on to support the Florida senator's bill.

Alabama was cited in a memorandum presented Thursday by the National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax as preventing 80 out of every 100 adult persons in the state from voting by its poll tax system. Miss Lucy Randolph Mason, Southern regional publicity director of the CIO, who testified against the tax, quoted an unnamed Birmingham lawyer as saying the effort to abolish the poll tax was "an insidious attempt to take power from our hands."

On the constitutional issue which has bothered many anti-poll tax congressmen, Jennings Perry, associate editor of The Nashville Tennessean, declared that "Congress has not only the power but the obligation" to remove the poll tax.

A spirited attack was made by Perry and by Silliman Evans, publisher of The Tennessean, against the alleged use of the tax by Ed Crump, of Memphis, in maintaining his political machine.

"I don't attempt to say that the poll tax necessarily results in corrupt government." Evans testified. "Many of the poll tax states have good government. But the poll tax brings about the growth of special interests and political machines."

In Tennessee, he added, "we have a political machine which for control has no peer in America. I refer to Ed Crump's machine in Memphis."

Evans said many Tennesseans didn't bother to pay their poll taxes even though they could afford to do so. "There is considerable apathy toward voting," he said, "for the people say Crump will control the election whatever happens."

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* * *

PERRY DECLARED that the issue was plainly up to Congress. He quoted the constitutional guarantee that every state must have a republican form of government. It is impossible to have republican government, he said, without the "unfettered right of suffrage."

He then cited a recent Supreme Court decision holding that whether a state has a republican form of government is a political question and up to Congress, not the courts, to decide. "Is it not the compelling duty of Congress to restore the republican form of government where it has been abridged by the poll tax?" Perry asked.

The Tennessee editor said that in Kentucky, where there is no poll tax, 62 per cent of the adult citizens voted in 1932, as compared with only 24 per cent in Tennessee.

Members of the Senate subcommittee, with the exception of Senator Connally, of Texas, appeared to be favorably disposed toward the Pepper bill, which calls for the abolition of the poll tax as a requirement for voting in all federal elections and primaries held to nominate federal officials.

* * *

MEMBERS OF THE subcommittee are Senators O'Mahoney (D., Wyo.), chairman; Murdock (D., Utah); Norris (Ind., Neb.); Connally (D., Tex.) and Austin (R., Vt.).

Only one poll tax state senator, besides Connally, is a member of the full judiciary committee, and he is the newest member. Senator Wall Doxey, of Mississippi.

"In all the eight Southern states where the poll tax is in effect," Perry said, "the republican form of government has been overthrown. Those states are still in the United States and have the right to ask for the protection of the federal constitution and intervention by the American Congress.

"In a republican government the universal right to vote is self-evident. When you concede to any government the power to tax this right you concede to it to destroy the republican form of government."

New Republic
New York, N. Y.

The Poll Tax

SIR: I notice Mr. George L. Knapp's question in the June 1 issue of The New Republic concerning the constitutionality of the poll tax, in which he suggests that this matter be brought to a federal court and carried up to the Supreme Court.

The exact case was presented to the United States Supreme Court and decided by Mr. Justice Butler on December 6, 1937, in the case of Breedlove v. Suttles, 302 U. S. 277, 58 S. Ct. 205. This case involved the constitutionality of, first, a Georgia statute providing that there shall be levied and collected each year from every resident of the state between the ages of twenty-one and sixty a poll tax of $1, but that the tax shall not be demanded from the blind or from females who do not register for voting, and, second, a state constitutional provision declaring that to entitle a person to register and vote at any election he shall have paid all poll taxes that he may have had opportunity to pay agreeably to law.

Mr. Justice Butler disposed of the question of the constitutionality of this statute and the Georgia constitutional provision in the following language:

To make payment of poll taxes a prerequisite of voting is not to deny any privilege or immunity protected by the Fourteenth Amendment. Privilege of voting is not derived from the United States, but is conferred by the state and, save as restrained by the Fifteenth and Nineteenth Amendments and other provisions of the federal Constitution, the state may condition suffrage as it deems appropriate.

Query: Would the United States Supreme Court make the same decision today if the case were again presented to it in view of the changing attitude and personnel of the present Court?

Mitchell, S. D. JUL 6 1942 FRED J. NICHOL

SIR: I would like to urge the readers of The New Republic if they are in any doubt as to whether their Representative has signed the discharge petition for the release of the anti-poll-tax bill from the House Judiciary Committee to communicate with the National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax, 10 Independence Avenue, Southwest, Washington, D. C., and we will provide them with the information.

VIRGINIA FOSTER DURR,
Executive Vice-Chairman
Washington, D. C.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Poll Taxers Assailed by CIO and AFL

MAR 14 1942

Labor Spokesmen Back Pepper Measure at Senate Hearings

By Eva Lapin
(Daily Worker Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON, March 13.—The obstructionist Southern poll-tax bloc in Congress caught a severe lashing today at the second day of hearings on the Pepper bill to abolish the

poll tax in federal elections.

"The outstanding labor-baiters in Congress, almost without exception, are Democrats from the poll tax states. This must be due to the fact that the working people of the South are unable to express their resentment," Paul Scharrenberg, AFL spokesman declared.

Dr. Will Alexander, Consultant on Minority Groups for the War Production Board, told the Senate Subcommittee conducting the hearings that the Southern people were represented in Congress by men who speak for only "a minority of the population," and that the poll tax must be abolished "to correct this evil."

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Negro trade union organizers from the South, William De Berry of the United Agricultural Workers and Littleton Stewart of the International Woodworkers, both CIO unions, described their first - hand experiences on how the poll tax keeps workers from exercising their constitutional privilege and hampers union organization in the south.

MAR 14 1942

A dramatic moment occurred at today's hearing when Harry Koger, President of the Cotton States Council of the CIO, announced that one of the witnesses in his group, a Negro preacher "from a poll-tax district in Alabama," who had been scheduled to testify felt it was "unadvisable" to do so because of fear of reprisals when he got back home.

Only Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney, Chairman of the special five man sub-committee considering the Pepper bill, S. 1280, was present at the hearing today. At the close of today's testimony he revealed that the committee was uncertain about the constitutionality of the bill and that some of the members felt a constitutional amendment, rather than legislation, was advisable.

But Yelverton Cowherd, CIO Regional Director in Alabama, expressed the feeling of all the witnesses who have so far testified when he declared that Congress "must break the ice" in abolishing the poll tax by passing the Pepper bill.

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As one witness pointed out to Senator O'Mahoney, the proposed amendment to the Constitution to abolish child labor, has never been ratified by a sufficient number of states and in order to remedy this situation. Congress finally passed legislation last year. It is probable that a constitutional amendment to prevent states from making a poll tax a requisite for voting would meet the same fate as the child labor amendment.

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CONSTITUTIONAL

Supporters of the Pepper bill, which declares that the poll tax cannot be considered a qualification for a voter within the meaning of the constitution, are confident of the constitutionality of the bill and expert testimony by leading lawyers to this effect will be presented at a future hearing.

Witnesses who testified today, in addition to those mentioned, were Dr. John T. Caldwell, Professor at Vanderbilt University, Dr. Frederick K. Beutel, Professor of Law at William and Mary College, and Dr. William G. Rice of the University of Wisconsin.

Scheduled to appear before the committee tomorrow are Julius G. Luhrson of the Railroad Brotherhoods, William Mitch of the United Mine Workers, and John P. Davis, Secretary of the National Negro Congress.

MAR 14 1942

At today's hearing, the insidious effect of the poll tax in corrupting the political machinery of the South and its effect on the workers was brought out by the CIO witnesses.

"Working people have little or nothing to say as to who their officers in the county will be," Harry Koger stated, pointing out that poll tax officials refuse to guarantee the workers the right to organize into unions or protect union organizers. He cited the Crump machine in Tennessee as having thrown CIO organizers into jail just as a means of showing off their power.

CIO Regional Director Cowherd testified that he had sworn affidavits from workers showing that the Republic Steel Corp., the Alabama Fuel and Iron Company and other big corporations in Alabama had paid the poll taxes of their employes to get them to vote "the company way."

He also told the committee of the unfair questions asked by Alabama officials in literary tests for Negroes, in a deliberate effort to disqualify them, such as: "On what date did Oklahoma change from a territory to a state?" "Who was the 14th President of the United States?"

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

The Poll Tax And the Cliveden Set

MAR 5 - 1942

• We think that alert and progressive Americans ought to begin now to prepare for one of the most important Senate hearings scheduled. This is the hearing on Senator Pepper's bill to abolish the Poll Tax which still exists in many Southern states. The hearings are scheduled March 12 before the Judiciary Committee.

The Poll-Tax—which disfranchises millions of white and Negro voters in the South—is looming up before the country not only as a reactionary relic of bygone days, but even more seriously as a dangerous obstacle to winning the war. The reason is that the most vociferous obstructionists against the American victory policy come from these poll-tax states where they do not have to fear the wrath of the disfranchised population.

MAR 5 - 1942

The loudest enemies in Congress of all necessary measures for unity are such typical Congressional Poll-taxers as Martin Dies (only four per cent of his district votes) Eugene Cox of Georgia, union-hating Howard Smith of Virginia and others. The Poll-tax Congressmen are the spokesmen of the Cliveden Set.

A resounding blow for victory in the war would be struck if ordinary processes of democratic elections could be restored to the bailiwicks of the Congressional appeasers. Recently, President Roosevelt took a crack at the poll tax system with just this in mind.

MAR 5 - 1942

We suggest that trade unions as well as progressive organizations generally, ought to take steps to have delegations down in Washington on March 12 to demand that the common people of the poll-tax states have the right to vote without having to buy that right guaranteed them by the Constitution.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

The Poll Tax Should Be Abolished

If anything baffles the premises of reason, it is the man who shouts of his pride for free government, offers and enlists his services to defend the principles of free government and at the same time sponsors any move to subterfuge free expressions on questions of government. He would see those who hold office, levy and expend taxes and pose as representatives of the people, starve off free men and hold them in virtual political slavery while mismanagement, embezzlement and all forms of maladministration and false representation bleed the country to death.

For many years a poll tax has been required as a consideration for voting. This is one of the old states' rights and it is highly noticeable that it hangs over only in the same states that once lined up in a measure to divide the Union. Losing the slave cause, they would engage in another cause equally as pernicious—the fettering of free men into political bondage.

Voting is not altogether an inherent right, it is a conferred right by the state. The state can withdraw this right from citizens for sundry causes and there can be no appeal to the national government except in cases of fraud. In fact, the refusal of a citizen at voting is generally final and thousands accept this at face value and as a result the minority sets up the machinery of government. A late Southern dean of journalism often said in explaining his defense of a poll tax, it keeps thousands of blacks from the polls. He held out as a bugaboo that there are twelve counties in Georgia in which the Negroes outnumber the whites when it came to voting eligibility.

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The disfranchising of voters has worked both ways—it played whaley with thousands of whites as well as blacks. It has kept down the wholesome discussion of issues in favor of petty quarrels and family political feuds. It has sent up to the national house of representatives some men who do not believe in true democracy. It has cut down the population of the southern states to the extent that representation has been lost in the national congress. It has driven thousands of citizens to other sections of the country where they can have an expression at the ballot box on election day. It has made elections in the South mere forms and fewer people vote in the actual eletcion in some of the states than in one county in the North. It has driven industry out of the South and established a system of poverty wards, wanton illiteracy and crime.

Young men like Senator Claud Pepper, himself a southerner, have seen the terrible blight and are moving to free their section of the political gag of abject slavery and poverty.

It is right that southern men begin the fight to repeal the poll tax. It is indeed fortunate that the Senate is holding hearings at this time when our enemies are hunting down every means of showing up our country as a land of privilege, denying to millions of tax payers the simple right to vote.

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This country has in its own making the opportunity of its life to serve its sacred cause by blasting of pernicious primaries and subterfuges.

Let every believer in true democracy join this fight to today and ask his aid in perfecting democracy.

52e-1942
Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Here's How Poll Tax Puts Damper on Democracy

MAR 14 1942

An explanation of how the poll tax system operates, released by the National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax.

Q. What is the poll tax?

A. A tax on a person regardless of the ownership of property, the payment of which is required by eight Southern States before a citizen can exercise the fundamental right of Americans to vote.

Q. What States have these laws?

A. Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Arkansas, Virginia, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.

Q. How much does a citizen in these States have to pay each year before voting?

A. Alabama, $1.50; Arkansas, $1; South Carolina, $1; Georgia, $1; Mississippi, $2; Virginia, $1.50; Tennessee, $2; and Texas, $1.

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Q. Must a citizen pay the tax for more than one year before he is able to vote?

A. Yes. In some States back taxes must be paid. In Alabama, for every year from 21 to 45; in Georgia, from 21 to 60; in Virginia, for three years before voting, and in Mississippi, for two years.

Q. What is the largest amount a voter may have to pay?

A. Alabama, $36; Georgia, $47.47; Mississippi, $6; South Carolina, $1.05; Tennessee, $2.50; Texas, $1.75; Virginia, $5.01; Arkansas, $2.

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Q. Why was the poll tax imposed upon voters in these States?

A. To take the vote away from the poor farmers and working people and keep the political control in the hands of a small class.

Q. What is the effect of the poll tax on voting?

A. In the Presidential election of 1940, only 27 per cent of the people in the eight Poll Tax States voted, as compared with 76 per cent in the other States.

Q. What proportion of the citizens in eacn Poll Tax State voted in that election?

A. Alabama, 20 out of 100; Arkansas, 19 out of 100; Georgia, 19 out of 100; Mississippi, 15 out of 100; South Carolina, 11 out of 100; Virginia, 24 ouf of 100, and Tennessee, 38 out of 100.

Q. Is this the result of keeping colored citizens away from the polls and allowing only the whites to vote?

A. No. Many white people do not have the right to vote by the poll tax. These figures represent the vote cast by white people only: Alabama, 28 out of 100; Arkansas, 29 out of 100; Georgia, 25 out of 100; Mississippi, 28 out of 100; South Carolina, 18 out of 100; Tennessee, 33 out of 100; Texas, 31 out of 100, and Virginia, 31 out of 100.

Q. What Southern States have abolished the poll tax?

A. Florida, North Carolina and Louisiana.

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Q. What happened to the vote in these States after the tax was taken off?

A. In North Carolina the vote went up 70 per cent; Louisiana, up 90 per cent, and Florida, up 140 per cent.

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Q. Do we need the poll tax to make elections honest?

A. No. The opposite is true. There is strong evidence everywhere that the poll tax laws are used by political machines to control elections and destroy the rights and freedoms of citizens.

Q. What can I do to help remove the poll tax?

A. Write your Congressman and ask him to sign Discharge Petition No. 1 to bring H.R. 1024, the anti-poll tax bill in the House of Representatives to a vote.

Write your Senator and ask him to support S. 1280—Senator Pepper's anti-poll tax bill in the United States Senate.

Write the National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax for more information and tell us what you have done to help make our country truly democratic.

POLL TAX

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

POLL TAXES ASSAILED AS MINORITIES' TOOL

MAR 13 1942

Tennessee Editors Tell Senate Group Corruption Is Norished

WASHINGTON, March 12 (AP)—Two newspaper executives and other witnesses told a Senate Judiciary subcommittee today that a minority of voters controlled government in eight Southern States because of poll taxes.

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They urged Congress to prohibit the imposition of taxes as a prerequisite for voting in election of Federal officials. The eight States having such a requirement were listed as Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

Silliman Evans, publisher of The Nashville Tennessean, said that "the growth and continued sway of rapacious political machines in the poll-tax States is a thing itself rapidly wearing away even the pretensions to popular government."

The Tennessee publisher mentioned the political machine of Shelby County, headed by Ed Crump of Memphis, and said that it controlled a fifth of the vote in all elections. He declared that voters had lost all interest in the eight poll-tax States with a result that "the vast majority of the people of these States no longer have a voice in the elective determination either of their nation, their State, their county or their village."

Jennings Perry, associate editor of The Tennessean and chairman of the National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax, told the Senators that it was the right and duty of Congress to remove any fetters to the free franchise. He said that under the poll tax "the rule of the majority is supplanted by habitual rule of the minority," and in the eight States "the republican form of government has disappeared."

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Poll Tax Seen As Potent Tool Of Minorities

MAR 13 1942

WASHINGTON, [AP] — Witnesses, including two newspaper executives, told a senate judiciary subcommittee Thursday that a minority of voters controlled government in eight Southern states because of the existence of poll taxes.

They urged congress to prohibit the imposition of taxes as a prerequisite for voting in election of federal officials. The eight states where such a requirement exists were listed as Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

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Stilliman Evans, publisher of Nashville [Tenn] Tennessean, told senators that he knew from long political experience in the poll tax states that votes that were for sale were "one of the cornerstones of rapacious political machines; and that the growth and continued sway of such machines in the poll tax states is a thing itself rapidly wearing away even the pretensions to popular government."

MAR 13 1942

SOME VOTES FOR SALE

Evans, also publisher of the Chicago Sun, said there always were some persons whose vote was "for sale for cash" and that this "venal minority is magnified out of all proportion" in the poll tax states.

The Tennessee publisher mentioned the political machine of Shelby county, headed by Ed Crump of Memphis, as an example of a powerful unit in a poll tax state controlling about one-fifth of the vote in all elections.

"Any reporter who has been around a poll-tax state knows so and so has so many poll tax votes in his pocket," Evans told senators, adding that this "smug joke" actually cheated honest voters.

The publisher said that voters had lost all interest in the eight poll states with a result that the "vast majority of the people of these states no longer have a voice in the elective determination either of their nation, their state, their county or their village."

MAR 13 1942

SAYS MINORITY RULES

Jennings Perry, associate editor of the Tennessean and chairman of the National Committee to abolish the Poll Tax, testified it was the right and duty of congress to remove any fetters to the free franchise.

Perry said that under the poll tax the "rule of the majority is supplanted by habitual rule of the minority" and then compared voting records of Tennessee, since its poll tax was enacted in 1892, with Kentucky, which has no poll tax.

"In the past 40 years the government of Tennessee has been a minority government," Perry said, adding that in all eight poll tax states "the Republican form of government has disappeared."

Senator Pepper [D-Fla], author of the anti-poll tax bill, said he had invited labor and Negro leaders to testify at hearings later this week.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

CRUMP MACHINE CITED AS EVIL OF POLL TAX

MAR 13 1942

Silliman Evans Fires Blast At Senate Hearing

MAR

WITHOUT 'PEER' IN NATION

Can't Expect To Defeat Shelby-Supported Candidate, Publisher Says Supporting Bill To End Vote Levy

By G. O. ROBINSON JR.
From The Commercial Appeal Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, March 12.—Silliman Evans, publisher of the Nashville Tennessean and the Chicago Sun, told a Senate Judiciary Subcommittee Thursday that in Tennessee "you can't expect to defeat a Crump-supported candidate."

Testifying in favor of the Pepper Bill to eliminate payment of a poll tax as a prerequisite for voting for national offices, Mr. Evans used what he termed the "Crump machine" as an illustration of what he said was a practice of payment of poll taxes by others for voters in state elections.

Shelby Strength Cited

"In that county, (Shelby) every eligible citizen has his poll tax paid for him or pays it himself," Mr. Evans declared. "Out of 400,000 votes in Tennessee, Shelby has poll tax payments every election year of around 80,000. Shelby controls 20 per cent of the state vote. In other sections, only 20 per cent of those eligible to vote pay the poll tax."

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He added that the Shelby machine "has no peer in America."

In further testimony urging elimination of the tax, Mr. Evans said "the poll tax works in favor of a minority or a group of minorities."

"A small group usually qualifies enough voters to control the election. Many people pay their poll tax as a civic duty but they're cheated before they're started."

Seen As Vote Deterrent

Taking the stand after the appearance of Jennings Perry, associate editor of the Tennessean, who has carried on an antipoll tax campaign in that newspaper several months, Mr. Evans was intro-

duced by Senator Pepper, sponsor of the bill, as "the plumed knight of American journalism."

Asked by Senator O'Mahoney of Wyoming, subcommittee chairman, that if it was not true that the fact that a poll tax must be paid before voting "was a deterrent to voting," Mr. Evans replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Perry said requirement of a poll tax was a denial of the constitutional rights of citizens. As to the negro vote in the state, he said negroes comprised but 16 per cent of the population and were "declining." He presented a chart to show comparison between the number of voters in Kentucky and Tennessee, emphasizing the higher percentage of voters in Kentucky, which has no poll tax.

Opposed By Bilbo

The Pepper Bill is the measure Senator Bilbo of Mississippi said he would "filibuster against 56 days if it ever reaches the Senate floor." If the bill should get to the floor of either House, many members will likely insist that although opposed to poll taxes, they cannot find warrant in the Constitution for Federal legislation forbidding these as prerequisites for voting. A discharge petition is now on the House speaker's desk to bring an antipoll tax measure similar to Senator Pepper's to the floor for a vote.

Besides Tennessee, other states having poll taxes are Alabama, Arkansas, South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, Virginia and Texas.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis. Tennessee

BILL TO END POLL TAX WILL BE AIRED TODAY

Pepper Contends Payment Not True Voting Qualification

EIGHT STATES AFFECTED

'Imposing List Of Educators, Labor Leaders, Editors, Others' Will Appear At Hearings Before Senate Subcommittee

By GEORGE MORRIS
From The Commercial Appeal
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, March 11.—Public hearings will be held by a subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, beginning Thursday, on a bill introduced by Senator Pepper of Florida, calling for abolition of the poll tax as a qualifiication in all Federal elections and primaries.

Senator Pepper's bill is based on the conention that poll tax payment is not a true qualification for voting iwthin the meaning of the Constitution, but is discriminatory by intent and within it effects. Eight Southern states would be affected by the bill.

MAR 12 1942

Announces Imposing List

The National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax announces "an imposing list of educators, labor leaders, newspaper editors, lawyers, representatives of negro institutions and women's groups, as well as distinguished laymen."

Among the witnesses announced to appear before the committee to indorse the bill are Herbert Agar, editor of the Louisville Courier-Journal; Dr. Will Alexander of the Julius Rosenwald Foundation of Chicago, and at present "consultant on minority groups" to the War Production Board; Silliman Evans, publisher of the Nashville Tennessean and the Chicago Sun; Miss Lucy Randolph Mason, public relations adviser in the South for the C. I. O.; Jennings Perry, associate editor of the Nashville Tennessean; Dr. Frank Graham, president of the University of North Carolina; Dr. John Caldwell of Vanderbilt University; William Green and John L. Lewis.

Others Ask To Be Heard

Among the numerous organizations which have asked permission to be heard by the committee are the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Negro Conference, The American Youth Congress, the National Lawyer's Guild, the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Youth Committee for Democracy and many others.

Mr. Evans gave a "poll tax party" Wednesday afternoon, to which a number of Southern newspaper men were invited, the purpose of which he described was "to give us Southerners and friends a chance to do a little feudin' over the issue and an excuse to have a few hors d'oeuvres together."

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

56-Hour Speech Is Promised By One Senator

MAR 2 2 1942

Many Negroes Testify During Bill Hearings

By ALVIN E. WHITE

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(A N P)—Although Sen. O'Mahoney chairman of the senate sub-committee holding the hearings on the poll tax repeal bill. said he felt there would be a repeal of this pernicious law which prevents states where the poll tax is common, mutterings of fillibusters on the bill are beginning to fill the air.

Sen. O'Mahoney said in his opinion it was just a matter of deciding whether the bill now before the senate would pass or whether an amendment to the constitution was necessary to make the repeal a reality and do away with the vicious practice once and for all.

Yet on the other hand there is one senator who is said to have promised a 56-hour speech if the bill ever reaching the floor of the senate.

MAR 2 2 1942

PLANS BITTER FIGHT

Supported by other senators from the poll tax states, he has vowed that such a bill would never pass unless cloture were voted in the senate and he would fight this to the bitter end.

Saturday morning's hearings saw a parade of outstanding Negroes testifying on behalf of the bill, with a group of whites from northern states which feel the poll tax states impose on them in the matter of equal representation, also fought for the bill.

Perry W. Howard, National Republican committeeman from Mississippi, John P. Davis, of the National Negro Congress; Edgar Brown, president of the United Government Employes, Jeanetta Welch, all joined in the fight for the repeal of the unfair legislation which has kept Negroes and poor whites out of their just rights in the south since the civil war.

ALEXANDER TESTIFIES

Dr. Will W. Alexander was one of those who asked the lifting of the law from the statute books. He said he felt the racial angle would enter the question and be used as an argument against the repeal of poll tax laws.

The racial angle, he continued, would be used as it always is, and would serve merely to obsecure the issues at stake.

It was pointed out that while the repeal of the poll tax had increased the white vote in Louisiana, the Negro vote had fallen off approximately one-third of what it had been before the repeal.

Professional people, including teachers, who moved from one state to another in higher institutions of learning, also felt the unfairness of the poll tax and as one professor from William and Mary college at Williamsburg, Va., stated, the poll tax not only prevented Negroes from voting, but the cumulative poll tax kept many intelligent whites from taking part in the elections.

Interesting stories were told by two colored labor organizers concerning the poll tax in Memphis and Arkansas. Both had been warned that if they attempted to vote they would be run out of town. One had been told if he testified for the repeal of the poll tax, he would find a mob waiting for him when he came back home. Those two men, organizers for the CIO had been brought in by Sen. Pepper as witnesses.

DISCUSSES LEGAL ASPECTS

John P. Davis made an interesting presentation on the legal aspect of the repeal measure. When he had finished, his statement was handed over to the secretary.

Jeanetta Welch also handed in her prepared statement.

It is said that should the fillibuster occur on the hill the only recourse is to take the issue to the local state legislatures for action, and it is the concensus of opinion that these individual states would surely kill off any attempts to repeal the law since through it, many of the politics are kept in office.

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

SENATOR MEADE OF NEW YORK IS AGAINST POLL TAX

WASHINGTON, June 28 (ANP) —Urging the passage of the poll tax bill, Sen. Meade of New York declared he felt there is a most opportune time to abolish the poll tax, and further expressed hopes that the senate would take early and speedy action on the Pepper bill, calling for the abolition of the vicious practice.

"We must not only set up a second military front," said the New Yorker, "but we must also set up a psychological front if we are to win this war for democracy and for all which that work implies.

"We cannot expect those associated with us in other parts of the world to fight loyally on our side if it were to appear that we are only fighting to preserve our own existing system of government. We must be more realistic and prove to our allies that all of our people enjoy and participate in the essentials of that system of government.

"So long as any group of people at home are denied the privilege of voting or registering to vote in federal or local primaries, or in the general elections by the legal compulsion of the payment of a poll tax, we are not in a good position to enlist the support of other nations for the establishment and maintenance of the four freedoms.

"Some of the advocates of the continuance of this system hide behind the cloak of the constitution. The constitution is the handmaiden of freedom, not a football of slavery.

"By abolishing the poll tax we would prove to the world that while fighting for democracy everywhere, we have not overlooked it here in the United States."

Sen. Meade has aligned himself with the forces determined to wipe out the poll tax by legislation and has been outspoken at all times in this direction.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

What About the Poll Tax Hearings?

MAR 27 1942

• What is happening to the hearings on the Pepper anti-poll tax bill in Washington? The special Senate sub-committee which was taking testimony adjourned the hearings a few days ago and nothing has been heard of them since.

In addition to sabotaging production and disrupting war unity, is the Smith bill campaign aimed at the anti-poll tax bill? The menace of the poll tax to the war effort is strikingly illustrated by the fact that Rep. Smith (author of the Smith bill) is himself a poll taxer from Virginia. Moreover, the Cliveden Set counts heavily upon the core of poll tax representatives in Washington to disrupt national unity and the war program.

The people should register their desire to the Senate sub-committee, whose chairman is Sen. O'Mahoney, for an opportunity to be heard on the Pepper bill.

Labor, civic and Negro organizations—and the whole movement for the abolition of the undemocratic poll tax—should not permit the appeasers and disrupters to defeat the Pepper bill.

52e-1942
The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Poll Taxers Gang Up on Bill To Give Soldiers Right to Vote

A bill to permit soldiers to vote for the leaders of the country they are willing to die for (H. R. 7223) is caught by a poll-tax bottleneck in the House Rules Committee. Committee opponents of the measure see it as "a dangerous opening wedge" threatening their dynasty.

Although the measure proposes nothing more than a procedure under which men in the armed services could vote, Virginia's Howard Smith and Georgia's Gene Cox, together with other members of the Rules Committee are trying desperately to kill the bill and keep it from a vote on the floor.

Preferring to deny the simple privilege of the polling place to those who are fighting for their country rather than to risk any precedent which might point the way to ridding America of the poll tax, these gentlemen reveal themselves as true summer soldiers.

The bill, supported by the American Legion and an impressive array of other patriotic organizations, will undoubtedly pass the House if it can squeeze past the poll-tax-clogged bottleneck.

Rep. Ramsay, West Virginia, author of the bill, which was reported favorably by the Committee on the Election of President and Members of Congress, said of his measure:

"To compel the voters of this country to fight to preserve for us these precious rights and privileges, and at the same time exclude them from the rights of citizenship, by the enactment of personal registration laws by State legislatures, seems too absurd to contemplate."

DUTY OF CONGRESS

"The Constitution makes it the duty of Congress to see that every citizen has the right to vote and to protect him in that right," he said. "If the State legislatures are permitted to legislate every restriction they may deem desirable against a voter before he is eligible to vote, it reduces itself to an absurdity, since the legislatures could decide that before a man would have the right to vote, he would be a millionaire; before a man would have the right to vote, he would necessarily have to be a white man; or that he would have to be a member of just one political party, thereby denying all others who did not believe in a certain political party, from having the right to vote at all."

Ramsay cited legal authorities for Congressional action to extend the right to vote to the armed forces. "Neither the legislature nor the people of any State in the face of Article 1, sections 2 and 4 of our Federal Constitution, by legislative enactment or by State constitution, can evade the plain and unmistakable intent and purpose in defining the power and duty of Congress on the subject of elections."

Not the South's Concern Alone

"The poll tax is a matter of concern to Southerners," says JAY FRANKLIN, thereby implying that it is of no concern to the rest of the Nation how 15 per cent of the total membership and a fourth of the majority party members in both houses of Congress are elected. We cannot assent to such casual treatment of a qualification for suffrage when beneficiaries of the system oppose the policies of their party and the repeatedly expressed sentiments of their own constituencies on national legislation.

Pre-eminently a matter of concern to Southerners it is, to be sure. But "a poll-tax situation by which," Mr. FRANKLIN declares, "more Southern whites are disfranchised than there are Negroes of voting age" is not the exclusive concern of the political machine he describes as maintained by it. His discovery that more whites than Negroes are disfranchised in Virginia might have aroused the columnist's curiosity about the purpose of adopting and perpetuating the poll tax. Its general introduction twenty years after Appomattox negates the assumption he appears to entertain. The South didn't wait that long to secure "white supremacy." The object of the poll tax was to frustrate the Populist movement for reforms subsequent achievement of which has become the boast of one or the other of the major parties. True, demagogues have not entirely ceased to exploit the race question; their records, however, have been made against regulation of child labor, woman suffrage and social measures.

Tennessee, the only poll-tax State where the two-party system exists, would afford Mr. FRANKLIN a better study than Virginia. In Tennessee, popular opposition against the poll tax was evident enough to persuade both candidates for Governor in the last State election and a majority of the legislators to promise its repeal; nevertheless the Governor and Legislature repudiated the pledge. Now, again, as another campaign gets underway, even Boss CRUMP, of Memphis, and his protege, Senator MCKELLAR, speak favorably of unrestricted suffrage. The situation recalls the bizarre scene at Nashville when, the suffrage amendment needing one more State to ratify it, the combined efforts of President WILSON and the people forced affirmative action over every stratagem resorted to by a resourceful political organization.

Eureka Lodge Makes Poll Tax Mandatory

Applicants Must Pay State Fee To Join

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

NORFOLK—After July 18, the payment of the state poll tax will be required of every applicant for membership in Eureka Lodge. While the payment need not have have been made in advance, if it hasn't, the candidate will be required to present the amount to the lodge along with his joining or reinstatement fee.

This measure was adopted by an overwhelming vote at well attended meeting of the membership on Thursday night. Also a committee was appointed which will sit in the lodge room bimonthly for the special purpose of assisting potential voters, who are members. in all matters having to do with casting the ballot in municipal, county or state elections in Virginia.

PRESSURE ON PRESENT MEMBERS

In addition to this it was decided to bring pressure to bear upon present members regarding the payment of the poll tax, and a record will be kept of the standing of each member in this respect. Provision will also be made for the collection of the tax through the secretary, even in installments, should the member so desire.

OTHER MEASURES

Several other progressive measures having to do with the operation of Eureka were adopted. Reports of the various committees were submitted, and after being discussed by the members, were approved.

Compliment was extended Walter C. Fulford, secretary, upon his having recently obtained his master's degree from Hampton Institute. A committee was appointed to look into the matter of

SPECIAL MENTION

Special mention also was made of Prof. D. G. Jacox who after several years teaching in the local public school system, recently obtained the degree of bachelor of arts from Virginia Union University.

At the close of the meeting refreshments were served in an abundance, Jerry O. Gilliam, exalted ruler, presided.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Petition to End Poll Tax

A table will be set in front of each of three small Negro churches in West midtown Manhattan tomorrow, with petitions calling for Congressmen from this district to vote for the discharge petition on the Geyer anti-poll tax bill. There will be some one at each table to supervise the taking of signatures.

The churches are St. Cyprian's, W. 63rd St., between Amsterdam and Columbus Aves., at noon; the Triumph Baptist Church, 312 W. 53rd St., at 1:30, and St. Stephens Baptist Church, 428 W. 52nd St., between Ninth and Tenth Sts., at 1:30.

Miss Trea Birth, president of the West Side Council, National Negro Congress, will make a brief speech at each place, explaining to the congregations as they leave the churches this reason for this action.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, PA.

'DOUBLE V' CLUBS UNITE, FIGHT FOR ABOLITION OF POLL-TAX

200,000 Members Flood Congressional Offices With Requests for Action on Geyer Bill.

In an effort to liberate 10,000,000 political peons, black and white, from the clutches of the poll-tax, 200,000 " Double V" club members were called on to flood their Congressmen's office with wires, letters and phone calls urgently requesting that they once and for all abolish the despicable poll-tax.

Rallying to the call, the offices of the House of Representatives in Washington have been receiving thousands of appeals this week to sign the Discharge Petition No. 1, to bring the Geyer Anti-Poll Tax Bill (H. R. 1024) to the House of Representatives for a vote. The bill which is now shackled in a Congressional committee, if passed will abolish the payment of poll-taxes in all future federal elections. Only 95 more Congressmen must sign the Petition to bring the bill out for a vote on the floor of the House.

"Double V" clubs throughout the country have pledged their efforts to win the poll-tax fight, an all-important segment of the "Victory at Home".

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

Poll Tax And Machines

Irving Brant, Chicago author and editorial writer, testified before a Senate Judiciary Subcommittee that requirement of a poll tax receipt as a requisite for voting is a tool in the hands of corrupt political machines.

Mr. Brant deviated from a prepared statement to remark that "it would be interesting to investigate the bearing of the poll tax upon the perpetuation of the Crump machine in Tennessee, which is supported by the poll tax." Just what Mr. Brant meant does not appear on the face of his remark, but we assume he knows that poll tax money itself goes to the schools in Tennessee. Further along in his statement, however, he indicated that he thinks machines profit by buying poll tax receipts for citizens who can be controlled, while those who can't be handled get disenfranchised by failing to observe the law and buy their own credentials.

The Commercial Appeal believes that the poll tax requirement should be discarded only after a system of permanent registration and other rigid safeguards for the proper employment of the right to vote are instituted. It fails to see, though, why indiscriminate removal would not be an asset rather than a liability to any and all political machines. As matters stand, raking up the money and buying the poll tax receipts is a nuisance to the machines, and the necessity doubtless hampers them to some extent rather than otherwise. They could the more easily round up and control the votes they now do if relieved of the work and financial burden involved in poll tax payments.

If we recall accurately, there is no poll tax requirement in Chicago, Mr. Brant's own field of endeavor, but there have been some intimations from time to time of none-too-pure political machines in that neck of the woods, and lakes, as the case may be. All in all, the best break we can give Mr. Brant is to assume that his ignorance falls into at least the slightly colossal class. What we think would be interesting is an investigation of the bearing of the lack of a poll tax requirement on the perpetuation of the Kelly-Nash machine in Illinois. The evils of machine politics are manifest, but, as Mr. Brant's own stamping grounds so eloquently indicate, they do not necessarily stem from the presence or absence of a poll tax.

New Masses
New York, N. Y.

Worth Armies in the Field

THOUGH all America could not march in that silent parade in New York last week, the hearts of the overwhelming majority were with it. The Negro paraders marched through the streets to the beat of muffled drums, mourning their dead, murdered by Jim Crow. Their placards urged an end to all discriminatory practices—in the factories, in the army camps, in the schools. More: they demanded that the abhorrent poll tax—which disfranchises 4,000,000 Negroes (as well as 6,000,000 whites)—be ended, once and for all.

And they had reason to hope. Before this week is out it may well be that the Geyer anti-poll-tax bill will be forced out of committee where it has gathered dust for many months. Representative Rankin of Mississippi, one of the South's most virulent Negro-baiters, outdid himself last week in his disgusting filibuster against the soldier vote bill. He so succeeded in outraging his colleagues that thirty-four of them immediately signed the petition to bring the anti-poll-tax bill out on the floor for consideration. To date, 190 members of the House have signed the petition; only twenty-eight more names are needed.

Jim Crow would receive a deadly body blow if the poll-tax election laws were abolished. More that that, some 10,000,000 Negro and white voters could go to the polls this crucial November and vote for win-the-war legislators. The laggard and the appeaser could be thrown out of Congress and the shackles to maximum war effort would be removed.

The President's desire to end discrimination as avowed in his Fair Employment Practices Committee would be underscored: it would be impossible for a Governor Dixon of Alabama to flout the provisions of the FEPC as he did when he turned down an army order last week for 1,750,000 yards of cotton material because the government contract barred color discrimination. Hitler-admiring Governor Talmadge of Georgia would scarcely dare uphold state officials who assaulted the world famous Negro singer Roland Hayes. The enthusiasm of millions would well up, and opportunity would be afforded them to work at maximum for victory. Indeed, the passage of the Geyer anti-poll-tax bill would be worth armies in the field.

Louder Than Words

[Here are action fronts on which everyone can serve. Read these appeals. See the correspondence column, page 286, for what others are saying—and send in your own ideas.]

Poll tax abolition, never now than ever before, needs some heavy slugging to put it over the top. Tolerant Senator O'Mahoney heads the sub-committee which has held hearings on the bill (S.1280) but a fire must be built under him to get it out before November elections.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

End the Poll Tax—This Week

THIS may well be a decisive week in the fight against the poll tax which has long been a disgrace to our country.

At the conclusion of Rep. Rankin's outrageous and unsuccessful filibuster against the soldier vote bill last week, 34 additional Congressmen signed the petition to wrench the Geyer anti-poll tax bill out of committee.

This means that a total of 190 members of the House have signed the petition, with 28 more needed.

Write to your Congressman today. Tell him that if he has not yet signed the petition, he should do so without delay.

It is a crime that 10,000,000 Americans (4,000,000 of them Negroes) should be denied the right to vote in the South. Wiping out of the poll tax, would give this large section of the population the most elementary democratic rights and enable them to participate in the elections this year. These elections will determine whether or not America will have a win-the-war Congress.

Pittsburgh Courier
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New Republic
New York, N. Y.

The Poll Tax

SIR: The National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax is undertaking a campaign to get the anti-poll-tax bill, H. R. 1024, out of the Judiciary Committee and onto the floor of the House. So far, we have obtained eighty-three signatures of congressmen, and we need two hundred and eighteen to get the bill onto the floor of the House. This bill is backed by a long list of organizations such as the three great labor organizations, church groups, women's groups and Negro groups. President Roosevelt has said publicly that he is against the poll tax and hopes it will be abolished. With this vast amount of support it seems strange that the bill has not been forced out, and we feel it is due to a lack of coördinated pressure on individual congressmen.

We therefore urge New Republic readers who are in favor of the abolition of the poll tax to make it their concern, and the concern of all the groups with which they are connected, to see that their own congressman receives letters from his constituents urging him to sign the petition to get the anti-poll-tax bill, H. R. 1024, out of committee and onto the floor of the House.

VIRGINIA DURR, Executive Vice-Chairman,
New York City National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax

Nation
New York, N. Y.

IF YOU HAPPEN TO THINK THAT YOUR Representative has bungled his job, say nothing about it. Should you ignore this advice and insist that your Congressman be held to account for his record, the least you can do, in the name of prudence, is to be sure that his name is not Martin Dies, Joseph Starnes, Noah M. Mason, or J. Parnell Thomas. Because these four Representatives hold themselves above reproach. They believe that they are not merely Congressmen but Congress itself and that any attack on them is an assault on the parliamentary system. Some Americans think that these gentlemen are mistaken, that they are not an institution at all but four small-time politicians whom poll taxes and public negligence have brought a long way. But whether they are four hacks or the Spirit of Magna Charta, the point is that Messrs. Dies, Starnes, Mason, and Thomas possess the magic property of Congressional immunity. This gift entitles them to brand you a Communist, a saboteur, or a cannibal without having to answer for it, and they will do just that if you so much as suggest that they are ripe for retirement. Only last week, in their collective capacity as the Dies committee majority and without a trace of an investigation, they formally pronounced the Union for Democratic Action "part of the interlocking directorate of the Communist movement," though at the last count the Union had exactly as many Communists as the National Association of Manufacturers and a standing rule against admitting any more. The Union's criticism of Dies, Starnes, Mason, and other obstructionists, said Dies, Starnes, and Mason, was an attempt "to obliterate the Congress of the United States and Nazify the country." Perhaps this will teach the U. D. A. not to advocate the defeat of men who may slander without risk.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Push For Action On Anti-Poll Tax Bill

NEW YORK—(SNS) — A tooth and nail battle over the Geyer Anti-Poll Tax bill (H. R. 1024) will rage in the House of Representatives if that bill, which is now on the floor of the House, predicted the NAACP this week.

On the basis of answers to its urgent request to congressmen who are not on record as having signed the discharge petition to bring the bill to the floor, the NAACP stated that the great majority of northern congressmen have signed and have indicated they will vote for it. Others who have objections to signing petitions for jurisdictional reasons, told the NAACP they would nevertheless vote for the measure when it comes up for action.

Urging all branch members, other individuals and organizations to write immediately to representatives from their districts to vote for the abolishment of the poll tax, the NAACP stated:

"The poll tax system negates democracy. In a nation which is fighting for justice and democracy, the poll tax should speedily be abolished. It lowers the morale of Negroes in the South and North alike, and has the same affect on many white Americans."

Amsterdam Star-News
New York, N. Y.

Time to Abolish Poll Tax, Senator Mead Asserts

Urges Senate to Speed Action On Pepper Bill to Ban Practice

WASHINGTON (ANP)—Urging the passage of the poll tax bill, Senator Meade, of New York, declared he felt this is a most opportune time to abolish the poll tax, and further expressed hopes that the Senate would take speedy action on the Pepper bill, calling for abolition of the practice.

"We must not only set up a second military front," said the New Yorker, "but we must also set up a psychological front if we are to win this war for democracy and for all which that word implies.

"We cannot expect those associated with us in other parts of the world to fight loyally on our side if it were to appear that we are only fighting to preserve our own existing system of government. We must be more realistic and prove that all of our people enjoy the essentials of that system of government.

"So long as any group of people at home are denied the privilege of voting or registering to vote in Federal or local primaries or in the general elections by the legal compulsion of the payment of a poll tax, we are not in a good position to enlist the support of other nations for the establishment of the four freedoms."

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Anti-Poll Tax Bill

The war which is now raging so fiercely on a number of fronts and which is taking tens of thousands of lives daily, is a war of the common people against barbaric enslavement, against backwardness, bigotry and prejudice.

Confidence in final victory is necessary, but confidence alone will not make for this victory. Every step necessary to win this fight must be taken quickly and boldly. I feel that the millions of colonial and other peoples all over the world must be shown that this is a war for liberty, freedom and independence, because without their support this war cannot be won. They will fight courageously if they are convinced that the United Nations are sincere in their promise of freedom for all the people of the world. As proof of the fact that people will fight to the end when they are certain that they are fighting in their own interests, we have only to look at the fight that the Filipinos put up as compared to the natives of Burma and Singapore.

Fine speeches on what the future holds for us is not enough. Right here at home we must not delay in correcting some of the shortcomings in our own democracy, so that ever larger sections of our population will feel that we really have something worth fighting for and so that we may be a good example for the other United Nations. The poll tax which deprives 10 million Americans of the right to vote is a blot on the record of our democracy, yet our Congress has not sufficiently grasped the importance of the issue to immediately enact the Geyer anti-poll tax bill, which would make it illegal for any State to require a poll tax in order to vote in national elections.

Action is the crying need of the day! Let's pass the Geyer anti-poll tax bill immediately!

RUTH HOFFMAN.
Washington, July 13.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

The Poll Tax Tempest

I've been hearing and reading so much popycock and blather in regard to the poll tax, and such insane and ridiculous statements that I can't help but do a little shouting myself.

I quote from a letter to the editor in the uly 15 issue of The Post:

"The poll tax which deprives 10 million Americans of the right to vote is a blot on the record of our democracy, yet our Congress has not sufficiently grasped the importance of the issue to immediately enact the Geyer antipoll-tax bill, which would make it illegal for any State to require a poll tax in order to vote in national election.

"Action is the crying need of the day! Let's pass the Geyer antipoll-tax bill immediately.

Perhaps the majority of the people who shout the loudest and are the most loquacious on the subject of the terrible poll tax are people who have never lived in a State which requires a voter to pay poll tax.

Now just what is a poll tax? Why have a poll tax? A poll tax is a small amount of tax imposed upon every citizen over 21 years of age, payable each year—which must be paid before the party is eligible to cast a ballot. This amount is not burdensome—in most cases $1 to $3. What patriotic American citizen is going to raise a kick about a small tax like that? The poll tax is not used for political purposes, but is put to some good use which benefits all the people of the State—the nonpayers, as well as those who pay. I was born and raised in a poll-tax State and I never heard any kicks or squawks about the poll tax, and practically every one paid without a murmur and seemed to think it was a fair assessment. The tax was used to repair and maintain roads and highways, and anyone who wished was allowed to work out his poll tax on the county roads. At least every one knew how much he was to pay, where the money was going and for what purpose it was to be used.

Now this is what I'm squawking about, and I'm really sincere in my quest for information. Why all this agitation and heart-rending sobs about the nonvoter in poll tax States? Is it such a heinous crime to deprive a man of his right to vote if he refuses to cooperate by not paying his poll tax? Does the fact that he does not get an opportunity to vote deprive him of the right to earn his bread and butter and to support his family? Certainly not! He has the same rights and privileges to earn his living as the poll tax payer, provided organized labor will permit him this opportunity.

Now let us look at the other side of this "Pay before you're served" proposition. I've noticed that very few if any of the above-mentioned gallants, who so bravely rushed to the defense of the terribly abused man who lives in a poll tax State, have shed any of those big salty crocodile tears over the plight of the poor working man who is being continually kicked around by the small but belligerent minority of the workers of America. It's a crying shame that free born American citizens are brow-beaten, black-jacked, and pushed around by a few big labor racketeers, and are compelled to pay tribute or blackmail to an organized gang of thugs before they are allowed to work for their own Government, even in time of war and dire peril.

It's still more of a shame and a disgrace that the Administration will permit this outrage, let alone, seem to aid and abet it. This blood money squeezed from the poor workers is not chicken feed. It ranges from $12 to as high as $1000 which must be paid before this American laborer is permitted an opportunity to earn his daily bread. Let's pass a bill, but methinks that an antiracketeering bill in the ranks of labor should be first on the list.

Which is more important, the right to vote or the right to work? One can live and still enjoy the blessings of life without voting, but can he do it without working? It's a cold, bleak and dreary outloog for the man who is deprived of his right to earn his living in peace and security, and it's still a darker looking picture when a small organized group of men can coerce even the Government of the United States into aiding and abetting them in their ways.

The poll tax benefits all the people of the State in which it is collected—nonpayers as well as the payers. The union dues benefit no one except those who pay them, and then a lot of sweating laborers get nothing and know nothing of what becomes of the billions squeezed from them. Even Uncle Sam knows nothing and collects nothing as income tax from a haul of over a billion dollars a year gathered in by the big labor gangs. Although he'll send his G-men in and check the corporations, businessmen, ordinary citizen and their incomes, those who pull in great amounts of swag go free.

I ask, can any decent American citizen swallow this Administration's labor policy and listen to the shrill shouts of virtuous indignation against the horrors of the poll tax system, and still keep a straight face? If so, they are the type that "strain at a gnat and swallow a camel."

DISGUSTED.

Washington, July 16.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

PRESSURE NEEDED TO FORCE PASSAGE

BY JAMES E. BOYACK
(Staff Correspondent)

WASHINGTON, July 9 — Negro Americans in Northern States have the chance of a life-time this week, to strike a blow for the political freedom of their 10,000,000 fellow citizens, black and white, in the eight Southern poll-tax states.

Blocked in a Congressional committee is the Geyer Anti-Poll Tax Bill (H. R. 1024) which, if passed by Congress, will abolish the payment of poll taxes in all future federal elections.

NEED 95 TO SIGN PETITION

The signatures of 218 Congressmen on a petition are needed to get the bill out for a vote on the floor of the House. Some 123 Congressmen have already signed Discharge Petition No. 1. But 95 more are needed.

The name of your Congressman may not be among those who demand immediate release of this bill. All you have to do is write, telegraph, or telephone him expressing your wishes. You must act now, before it is too late.

The poll-tax device was adopted some 40 years ago to maintain Southern supremacy of whites over Negroes. All it has ever succeeded in accomplishing was to entrench a group of fascist-minded politicians in Washington under the honored titles of Congressman and Senator; so-called "representatives" of the people. It has, furthermore, disenfranchised more whites than Negroes.

Among the states which deny political equality to all their citizens are Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, South Carolina, Mississippi, Texas, Tennessee and Virginia.

In these states it is the solidly entrenched political machines, directed by "Dixie Fuehrers," who control the political destiny of the people.

ONLY 20 PER CENT CAST VOTE

In the 1940 elections, some 70 per cent of the electorate of the 40 non-poll-tax states went to the polls to choose their representatives. In these same elections only 20 per cent of the electorate in the poll-tax states were permitted to vote. And these did the voting for the other 80 per cent too . . . the majority who are forced into political servitude while we are fighting for freedom throughout the world in the bloodiest war in human history.

How this undemocratic, vicious system operates to deprive the citizens of other states from expressing their wills through their Congressmen where important national legislation is involved—is simply illustrated.

RHODE ISLAND OUTVOTED

In the last elections, the little state of Rhode Island with a population of 687,000 cast 314,023 votes and elected only two Congressmen. Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina, with a total population of 9,300,000, cast only 264,419 votes between them. But they returned 32 Congressmen to the House.

Now should an anti-lynching bill come before the House for vote, it is likely that, in spite of the fact that they represent more actual voters, the two gentlemen from Rhode Island might be out-voted 16 to 1 by their Southern colleagues.

If you want further proof of the vital necessity of freeing our Southern brothers from political slavery, consider the case of the notorious Negrophobe, Senator Ellison D. "Cotton Ed." Smith of South Carolina. Only 2.4 per cent of the population of his state voted him into office. Apparently, as far as this "noble" representative of the people is concerned, the rest might not exist.

RANKIN FIGHTS "LAST STAND"

Representative Martin Dies of Texas got into office with the support of only 13 per cent of the population of his great state. Negro-baiter Senator Harry F. Byrd of the Virginia Byrds can claim a magnificent 10 per cent; Representative John E. Rankin of "Ole" Mississippi, who is currently fighting a "last stand" battle in Congress for continuance of the segregation of Negro blood banks by the American Red Cross, received the overwhelming minority of 7 per cent of Mississippi's population.

Representatives Sam Hobbs and Joe Starnes of Alabama received 9.9 per cent and 7.5 per cent respectively.

As a free-born American citizen, you owe it to yourself and to the 10,000,000 political slaves in the South to write your Congressman demanding that he take action to get the Geyer Anti-Poll Tax Bill out of committee. Fill out this form and send it to him.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Abolition Of Poll Tax Is Sought

Spokesman For C. I. O. Labor Chief Heard

WASHINGTON, July 30.—(AP)—A bill (S 1280) to outlaw the poll tax as a voting qualification was endorsed today by a spokesman for Philip Murray, CIO president.

Murray's views were contained in a statement presented a Senate judiciary subcommittee by Harry Cowan, CIO legislative representative. Murray said the bill was as important for victory in the war against the Axis powers as an appropriation for tanks, planes or ships, and its enactment would be a move toward unity and national morale.

The bill was introduced by Senator Pepper (D), Florida.

"The poll tax, by disfranchising millions of American citizens, negro and white," said Murray's statement, "does stand in the way of victory. In the name of 5,000,000 men and women of the CIO whom I represent, I urge your committee to take favorable and speedy action on the Pepper bill."

The Union
Incinnati, Ohio

POLL TAX HELPS HITLER

Our enemies are skilled propaganda merchants. They take advantage of every opening we give them. Right now they are saying:

"The Atlantic Charter is a hoax. Wallace and Welles are lying. Democracy is an empty phrase." The poll tax proves it.

In Asia, Africa, South America, wherever they can plant seeds of doubt as to the intentions of the United Nations, sly stooges of the Axis use the poll tax in eight of the United States to "prove" that there is no democracy in America." In our own South this snide whispering goes on: "Look at the poll tax! Nothing to fight for! Democracy is for those who can afford it."

Abolition of the poll tax as a prerequisite to voting in eight southern states, where 10 million adult American citizens are denied a voice in government, is a matter of prime importance to America-at-war.

The poll tax must go. Now. At this session of Congress. In the month of June 47 more Congressmen signed Discharge Petition No. 1 to bring the Geyer anti-poll tax bill to a vote on the floor of the House. Now there are 130 signatures on that petition, and only 88 more are needed.

The poll tax is an ally of Hitler. Write your Congressman today, urging him to help lick the Axis by signing Discharge Petition No. 1 without delay. —The Poll Tax Repealer.

52e-1942
The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Only 28 More--Poll Tax Fight Nears Showdown

(Daily Worker Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON, July 24.—With only 28 signatures of Congressmen needed to bring the Geyer anti-poll tax bill to the floor, a showdown on the poll tax issue is considered likely next week.

Organizations like the National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax and the National Negro Congress are planning a concerted drive over the week-end to get additional signatures and to have delegations come down to Washington.

At a meeting of the National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax this afternoon, a seven-man Congressional steering committee was set up to arrange for additional signatures and to guide the measure through the House.

Chairman of the Steering Committee is Rep. Knute Hill, Washington Democrat. Other members are Alfred F. Beiter, New York Democrat; Gordon Canfield, New Jersey Republican; Thomas Ford, California Democrat; Luther Patrick, Alabama Democrat; Augustine B. Kelley, Pennsylvania Democrat and William G. Stratton, Illinois Republican.

190 SIGNATURES

There are now 190 names on the petition to discharge the House Judiciary Committee, which has stalled for three years, from further consideration of the bill. It is necessary to have 218 names on the petition.

A band-wagon rush to sign the petition started yesterday in protest against the filibuster by Rep. John Rankin of Mississippi and other poll taxers against the Ramsay bill to permit soldiers to vote.

Rankin and other poll taxers feared this measure would be an opening wedge to abolish the poll tax, and filibustered for more than four hours.

The filibuster boomeranged, however, and the bill was not only passed by a 134 to 19 vote, but 34 additional Congressmen signed the Geyer discharge petition within the space of a few hours.

Despite the progress made in the last few weeks, leaders of the anti-poll tax movement warned that there are still plenty of obstacles before enactment of the Geyer measure which would give the democratic right to vote to 10,000,000 disenfranchied citizens, including 4,000,000 Negroes, in eight Southern states.

POLL TAX TRICKERY

The most immediate danger is the possibility of a parliamentary trick by Speaker Sam Rayburn of Texas, who is clasely tied in with the poll tax group which is fighting the Geyer bill.

There have been persistent reports that Rayburn will refuse to recognize the validity of the discharge petition on the ground that the late Rep. Lee Geyer, sponsor of the anti-poll tax bill is dead and that he is the only member of the House who can call up the measure.

Under accepted House procedure, any signer of a discharge petition can call up a bill once there are 218 names on the petition.

If Rayburn makes an unprecedented ruling to bar the Geyer bill from reaching the floor, there are two alternative steps open to the Congressional group which is pushing the measure:

ALTERNATIVE STEPS

First, introduce a motion to overrule the chair.

Second, transfer names from the Geyer discharge petition to the petition to discharge the anti-poll tax bill sponsored by Rep. Joseph Gavagan, New York Democrat.

Although Gavagan represents the large Negro population of Harlem in the House, there is a strong feeling among anti-poll tax groups that he has been most uncooperative in backing the Geyer bill.

Supporters of the Geyer bill have been urging Congressmen to sign both the Geyer and Gavagan discharge petitions. The Gavagan bill now has 60 signatures.

Gavagan, however, has refused to sign the Geyer petition and is understood to have urged several New York congressmen not to sign.

The indications are that Gavagan is unwilling to support a measure to eliminate the poll tax unless it bears his name.

PREPARE DRIVE

Despite Gavagan's failure to cooperate, sponsors of the Geyer bill are prepared to start a drive to get signatures for the Gavagan bill if Speaker Rayburn blocks action of the Geyer measure. They are proceeding on the basis that their only consideration is to abolish the poll tax.

Foes of the poll tax were extremely heartened by yesterday's debate on the Ramsay bill during which Rep. Rankin and the other poll-taxers were decisively defeated.

Two of the strongest speeches attacking Rankin's position were made by Congressmen from southern states.

Rep. John W. Flannagan of Virginia where the poll tax till reigns said:

"Oh, I am aware of the sinister influence that is directing the fight against the passage of this legislation. It is the fear that the soldier boy will be relieved of the payment of a poll tax. In answer, let me say that there is no tag showing the payment of a head tax of $1.50, or whatever the poll tax may be dangling from the flag the soldier boy fights under."

Rep. John R. Jennings, Republican from Tennessee where there is no poll tax, said:

"There are some who are afraid Negro soldiers and sailors will be given the right to vote by this bill. We have put them in our armed forces, we have clothed them with the uniforms of our soldiers and sailors. When that is done then so far as I am concerned, I say to you and I am willing to say to everybody, that these men are citizens of this country, they are its defenders, and they have the right to vote."

Typical of the poll-taxers who led the filibuster against the Ramsay measure was Rep. William Whittington of Mississippi who got only 2,172 votes in 1938 in a district with a population of 429,000.

Rep. Rankin, the most vitriolic Negro-baiter in the House, got the support of only ten per cent of the voting population in his district. The other 90 per cent were disenfranchised.

The Geyer bill would make it possible to get rid of Congressmen like Rankin and Whittington.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Senators Hear White's Plea For Tax Bill

Whole Country Should Awaken, NAACP Head Says

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—Pleading for a favorable report and passage of S. 1280, the Pepper Anti-Poll Tax bill, before the subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee Thursday, July 30, Walter White, NAACP executive secretary, put forth that the whole country should awaken to the menace of the system which makes possible the election and reelection to office by ridiculous ease by political cliques of congressmen, senators, governors and other officials who do not represent, enlightened, decent white or Negro opinion" in poll tax states.

Passage of the Pepper bill(sponsored by Senator Claude Pepper of Florida) would not only be a step in correction of this condition, Mr. White said, but would declare our willingness to make democracy work and show the people of India and South America whose support we need, that democracy here is living and expanding.

DECIDES ON POWER

The hearings opened at 10:30 Thursday morning presided over by Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney, Wyoming, who stated that the hearing was called specifically on the question of constitutionality It was to determine whether Congress has the constitutional power to pass legislation affecting qualifications of voters.

Mr. White's testimony also brought out that the South itself will be the chief beneficiary if the poll tax is abolished. He mentioned that the poll tax states have been the last to provide the elementary protection of workmen's compensation for those who toil in industry, and cited the Virgin Islands where the removal of voting restrictions brought about significant improvements in social and other legislation.

"Extension of the franchise," the NAACP leader asserted, "Will improve the quality of the members of Congress, governors and other officials elected from southern states. Less frequent will be appeals on the floor of Congress to racial and sectional prejudice. Less frequent will be opposition to socially enlightened legislation which is desperately needed during times of crisis like these, all too often killed in committee or on the floor of the Congress by an unenlightened reactionary southern bloc. Less frequently will our nation be held up to scorn and preaching one doctrine and practicing another which is diametrically opposite."

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y

Poll Tax Bill Moving Ahead Despite South

WASHINGTON—Despite Congress' declaration of an unofficial recess and the fact that southern reactionary poll-tax congressmen have threatened to filibuster, the number of signatures to House discharge petition number one advanced to 194 this week, leaving 24 to be obtained in order to reach the total of 218 necessary to bring the Geyer-Pepper anti-poll tax bill (HR 1024) to the floor for a vote.

At the same time, the nation-wide movement in support of the bill took on new life, with labor and Negro organizations advising their members to visit their congressmen to urge them to sign immediately. In New York, where seven congressmen out of 23 have not yet signed the petition, leaders of local, state and national organizations took joint action to obtain signatures.

Following a conference in NYC Thursday with representatives of 16 labor and Negro groups, Representative Joseph A. Gavagan (D), who also has a discharge petition on the speaker's desk to bring up his own anti-poll tax bill, issued a statement in which he declared that:

"The issue of the poll tax is a war measure involving the democratic rights of four million Negroes and six million whites in the eight poll tax states, to express their full support of the President and our government in winning this war for democracy. This is why passage of a federal anti-poll tax bill in this session of Congress calls for the broadcast support of all the American people, including 13 million Negroes, whose patriotic fight for full citizenship rights will be carried forward with the passage of this legislation."

Expressing the belief that technicalities might prevent House action on the Geyer petition, Gavagan nevertheless said that despite this belief he would not oppose signing of the petition by others.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

The Poll Tax Measure

REP. Hatton Summers of Texas has succeeded in keeping the Geyer Anti-Poll tax bill in his committee from the time of its introduction to the present. The Texas solon has reasons sufficient unto himself to justify his action since he hails from a state from which he was elected primarily because of the poll tax law in existence that keep over fifty per cent of the voters at home on election days.

Certainly, the Texas lawmaker would be desirous of perpetuating a system that is responsible for his $10,000 a year salary if the thought of losing that system would have a corresponding effect upon his job. And we are not so sure but that it would not.

When Rep. Summers and the other members of his Judiciary committee failed to vote the measure out of committee it became necessary for 218 members of the house to petition the measure out of the committee in order to secure a vote on it in Congress. To secure 218 signatures from disinterested and lukewarm congressmen requires pressure, pressure and more pressure.

To date almost enough signatures have been added to take the bill from the reactionary committee to bring it before the house for a vote.

The facts in effecting the release of the bill by the Judiciary committee are illustrative of the influence of the poll tax evil for which the measure is intended to cure. A few reactionary congressmen who have secured longevity and its concomitants—committee chairmanships, influence, seniority, and prestige— because of the poll tax laws are in a position to curtail worthwhile legislation and stifle the voice of representatives of the forty non-poll tax states.

In a recent letter to Congressman Edward A. Kelly the PWOC Joint Executive board of Chicago said, "The hateful poll tax is a blotch on American Democracy. . . . The passage of this bill would greatly strengthen the war effort of the entire nation and would show your support of the President's Win-the-War Program."

The poll tax system is one of the most pernicious evils ever concocted by a democracy to prevent large segments of its population from exercising its right of suffrage. In the eight poll tax states more than 85 per cent of the eligible voters stay at home on election day. The alternative would be to pay from one dollar to ten dollars a person (some states have cumulative provisions in the laws) for the purpose of voting. When you remember that many people in that part of the country never see more than a dollar at a time, and that is rare indeed, you can readily understand why South Carolina only had seven percent of its voters at the polls in the last national election.

Every representative in Congress who is interested in seeing democracy work in the United States should sign the petition.

We are fighting a war to save democracy. If there are congressmen who are nursing undemocratic ideals we fear that they should be on the other side in this global war.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Anti-Poll Tax Bill Argued Before Senate Committee

WASHINGTON. — (ANP) — Before a three-man group of the senate sub-committee on the judiciary, the Pepper Anti-Poll Tax bill got a thorough going over as to its constitutionality with experts on the constitution testifying in favor of the bill.

Sens. O'Mahoney of Wyoming, Norris of Nebraska and Pepper constituted the committee, Sen. Van Nuys of Indiana came in to listen for a while as the arguments were presented.

First presentation was made by Irving Brant, author of "Storm Over the Constitution" and several other books, as well as being an editor of the Chicago Sun.

There was no doubt as to Mr. Brant's testimony which was characterized by Sen. O'Mahoney as a "lucid and scholarly explanation" and by Sen. Pepper as being a "magnificent statement."

Mr. Brant, wading through pages of material, attempted to show that the elasticity of the wording of the constitution provided for congress to act in any state at any time where the citizens of that state were being deprived of their rights as originally set down by congress.

"The poll tax," said Mr. Brant, "is an agency of political corruption," and here he injected a statement that the perpetuation of the Crump machine is a direct result of the poll tax system of government. "It is a government of the minority and not the government of a republic," he added after showing up the Crump machine as a typical corrupt, poll-tax outfit.

After a two-hour recess, the testimony of experts was resumed with Prof. James Morrison taking the stand to bring another carefully prepared and documented statement on the constitutionality of the act before the group. Both Mr. Brant and Prof. Morrison cited works of celebrated persons including Madison, known as the "father of the constitution", for the benefit of the committee and submitted their prepared statements for the benefit of the group for study.

Immediately after Prof. Morrison presented his statement, Walter White for the N. A. A. C. P. submitted a prepared statement sustaining what had been said and asking for the repeal of the poll tax on several humanitarian grounds.

"Axis propagandists are industriously propagandizing via short wave broadcasts to label the United States as being dishonest and hypocritical when it alleges that it is fighting to preserve the democratic processes while within the United States citizens are barred from participation in government because of economic circumstances, color or other reasons," Mr. White said.

The N. A. A. C. P. urges a favorable report by this committee on Sen. Pepper's Anti-Poll Tax bill and urges prompt and favorable action by the congress. It does not do so solely on behalf of the Negro in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tenessee, Texas and Virginia. It urges enactment on behalf of the disfranchised white voters of those states as well.

"This bill bespeaks the faith of Americans today in the ideals they profess."

52e-1942
Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

SEEK END OF WHITE PRIMARY, POLL TAX

NAACP Employs Courts To Win Vote Rights In Ark., Texas, Ala.

NEW YORK—Real war has been declared on the "lily-white" Democratic primary system throughout the South which excludes Negroes from the right to vote by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

In Arkansas, in Texas, in Alabama, the N.A.A.C.P. is taking action through the federal courts and has requested the intervention of the Department of Justice.

The N.A.A.C.P. announced this week that in all states where the white primary excludes Negroes, it is prepared not only to file cases for damages in federal courts but to prepare briefs and to request the Department of Justice to institute criminal prosecution against election judges and others under the United States Civil Rights Statutes.

This procedure is already being followed in Arkansas where a few Negroes were permitted to vote in the Democratic primary on July 28, but many were prevented.

Affidavits from those who were refused permission are being taken and will soon be presented to the Department of Justice.

Negroes were barred from voting in the Texas Democratic primary on Saturday, July 25.

Here the Department of Justice will be asked to institute criminal prosecution of the election judges on the basis of affidavits which will be sent to it from Negroes who were turned away at the polls.

A case challenging the white primary in Texas based on the 1940 election is now pending before the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, La.

This case is appealed from the United States District court in Houston, Texas, which on May 11, upheld the white primary. N.A.A.C.P. Special Counsel Thurgood Marshall is expecting that the case will be heard the first week in November in Fort Worth, Texas.

Marshall also stated: "We have already requested prosecution of election officials who have refused to permit Negroes to vote in the Democratic primary in Alabama.

The N.A.A.C.P. will press this fight in all of the southern states until Negroes are guaranteed the right to vote not only in the general election, but, in all primaries where federal offices are involved.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

ELIOT RAPS POLL TAXER IN DEBATE

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 23—In a forcible plea for federal repeal of the poll tax, Representative Thomas H. Eliot of Massachusetts declared that such taxes put "self-government beyond the reach of the common man." During the Washington Evening Star's National Radio Forum, which was broadcast over NBC's Blue Network, Eliot asserted that Americans cannot afford to be fainthearted and passively wait until the States' abolish the tax.

ONE-SIXTH DENIED VOTING RIGHT

"In eight States, election day means nothing to poor men because they have not got the $2, say, to buy the right to vote. Even if they have it this year, they may need much more than $2, because they didn't have it last year, and in some States the tax is retroactive. And so in one-sixth of the United States, the words 'representative government' have a curiously limited meaning, and people without property are consigned to political outer darkness. . . One-sixth of the nation plays a big part in the life of the nation: this is not a simple local problem. It affects the whole country."

Representative William Whittington, poll-taxer of Mississippi, muttering time-worn incantations about "States' rights" and "white supremacy in the South," admitted with astonishing frankness that he felt suffrage was not a right "but a privilege to be granted or withheld by the States."

ATTACKS RACE

In a speech riddled with inconsistencies, he boasted that the tax was for the purpose of denying enfranchisement to Negroes, though later he contradicted himself and insisted that repeal of the poll tax would not increase the Negro vote.

With what could only have been a playful attempt at humor, Congressman Whittington devoted part of his talk to an attack upon Negroes for dominating political organizations.

"Until the Negro purges the political system which he controls in the South and purges his participation in elections, restricted suffrage will continue to be imperative for the preservation of continued good government in the South" was the Congressman's baffling argument.

Whittington received a grand total of 2,172 votes in his district in the 1938 election, so that he was chosen for office by one-half of one per cent of his constituents. Mr. Eliot was elected by 49 per cent of the population.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Soldiers' Vote Bill Facing Difficulties

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30. — (AP) —Congressional leaders laid plans today to send the service men's absentee voting bill to a Senate-House conference committee for disposition of its anti-poll tax feature but the controversy aroused by this provision made the fate of the measure uncertain.

Sponsors of the bill propose to move tomorrow to send it immediately to conference without further debate in the House but this action might be blocked by a single member, delaying consideration until a quorum of the House could be assembled. Many members have left the capital during the current informal recess.

"There is no doubt we can pass the bill with a poll tax amendment if we had a quorum in town," said Representative Ramsay (D), West Virginia, its sponsor. "We can't pass it without a quorum because opponents can block that move by demanding the attendance of a majority of the members."

The poll tax amendment, adopted by the Senate 33 to 20 after spirited debate, provides that soldiers and sailors may vote without paying poll taxes even though their home States require them as a qualification of voting. Poll taxes are levied in Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Texas and Virginia.

Edgar G. Brown, director of the National Negro Council, said the provision would affect some 400,000 negro servicemen and hailed it as the first concrete step taken in Congress to enfranchise thousands of Southern negroes. His organization launched a campaign to bring absent representatives back to the capital to vote on it.

Some proponets of the poll tax waiver oppose sending the bill to conference immediately lest the conferees eliminate the provision or bottle up the measure indefinitely.

Senator George (D), Georgia, ranking member of the elections committee, predicted that whether or not the bill goes immediately to conference, it now contains so many controversial features that it could not become effective in time for the November elections.

The Senate further amended the bill to make it applicable to primaries as well as general elections for senators, representatives and presidential electors, and opened the way to absentee voting by United States service men anywhere in the world. The original bill confined the plan to those stationed in the continental United States.

These changes also were considered controversial. The War and Navy Departments vigorously oppose voting by men outside the United States because it might reveal troop locations to the enemy. In most Southern States, the Democratic primary is of much greater importance than the general election.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

VOTES FOR SOLDIERS

Both houses of Congress have now passed bills reinforcing provisions made by most of the States to insure that citizens shall not lose the right to vote because they are enrolled in the armed forces. The Senate went further than the House in stipulating that soldiers should not be deprived of the franchise in Federal elections because of their failure to pay their poll taxes. A joint conference committee has accepted this provision, and on some date after Labor Day the House will have to decide whether or not it will accept the conference committee's report. It will not accept it if Representative Rankin of Mississippi has his way. Says Mr. Rankin:

> This measure * * * is a part of a long-range communistic program to change our form of government and our way of life and to take the control of our elections out of the hands of white Americans in the various States and turn them over to certain irresponsible elements that are constantly trying to destroy private enterprise and to stir up trouble, especially in the Southern States.

It is not easy to figure out the meaning of such words. Defenders of the poll tax in the eight States where it is a prerequisite to voting usually argue that any respectable citizen can pay and vote if he wishes. Mr. Rankin seems to imply that the tax is a device to disfranchise Negroes and "irresponsible" white elements," which, if we omit the adjective, is what its opponents have always contended. If Mr. Rankin really means what he appears to be saying he is determined that most Negroes and many white citizens shall be deprived of their constitutional right to vote, though not of their constitutional duty to bear arms in defense of their country. One wonders what our soldiers and sailors, committed to the brotherhood of arms, think of that idea.

Death Knell of A Feudal Relic

SEP 6 - 1942

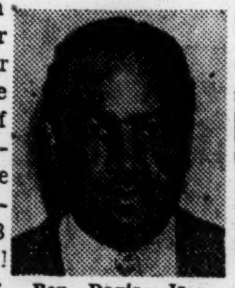
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Daily Worker — N.Y., N.Y.

By Ben Davis, Jr.

For the first time since the Civil War it is immediately possible to break down one of the pre-capitalist forms of oppression of the Negro people, namely, the poll tax.

Last Tuesday, the House-Senate Conference Committee agreed upon the Soldiers' Vote Bill, which wipes out the poll tax for all men in our armed forces fighting abroad. According to the bill our men offering their lives to their country in the sacred task of destroying Hitler, may not be barred from voting in the 8 Southern poll tax states, whether in the primaries or in the general elections.



Ben Davis, Jr.

SEP 6 - 1942

Now that the House-Senate Committee has agreed upon the bill, it remains for the House either to accept or reject the report of the Committee. The vote is to be taken Wednesday, Sept. 9. Whether or not the measure passes depends upon a flood of telegrams and letters to Congressmen and Senators assuring a quorum in the House and assuring a vote in favor of the measure.

The significance of this partial victory to the Negro people, the poverty-stricken whites in the deep South and to the national war drive cannot be overestimated. Ever since the Emancipation Proclamation the poll tax has stood as a relic of feudalism which actually nullified the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments to the Constitution. First laid as a trap by Ku Klux Klan forces and Southern Bourbons to operate only against the 9 million Negroes in the South, the poll tax has become a fetter upon the white people of the South and actually bars more whites from the ballot than Negroes. It has served to mock our traditions of democracy and now, while we are engaged in a war for democracy against fascist tyranny, the continued existence of the poll tax does much to lessen confidence in the sincerity of our aims.

SEP 6 - 1942

The colored peoples of Asia, Africa, and the Middle East would see far more clearly the justice of their participation in the cause of the United Nations, if the poll tax in 8 Southern states of our own America were immediately wiped out.

As far as the Negro people of this country are concerned, there is no doubt but that the ending of the poll tax would inspire them to undreamed of heights of enthusiasm in prosecuting the war. For one of the main bases upon which Governors Talmadge of Georgia and Dixon of Alabama base their "white supremacy" conspiracy would be removed.

There is no doubt that this blow against the poll tax emerges out of the spirit of democracy and fair play which is engendered in the nation's involvement in a just war, as in 1863 when Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. The necessities of the war, of full mobilization of our people Negro and white, make it imperative that such feudal relics as the poll tax be ended forever and that the whole system of national oppression of the Negro people be wiped out.

Rep. Rankin, the fascist Congressman from Mississppi, paid the Communist Party a great compliment when he declared that the Soldiers' Vote bill was a "Communist plot." The meaning of Rankin's Hitlerite epilepsy is that any measure that helps to strengthen national unity, and the war effort through granting equal rights to the Negro people, is a "Communist Plot."

SEP 6 - 1942

Actually the poll tax is opposed by decent people all over America including the President of the United States—and including, outstanding white Southerners and their labor and liberal organizations. It is significant that the man who leads the fight against the poll tax in the Senate, is Senator Claude Pepper of Florida, an energetic advocate of the Second Front and of close unity of the United States, the Soviet Union and all others of the United Nations.

This partial victory must and can be made into a total one, first by securing passage of the Soldiers Vote bill and then by enacting the Geyer anti-poll tax bill which would eliminate the poll tax for the civilian population in the South. Of the 218 signatures necessary to rescue the Geyer bill out of the death grip of the House committee, only 18 are now needed.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Service Ballot Bill

By Mark Sullivan

AUG 28 1942

AUG 28 1942

The Poll Tax Amendment

THE SOLDIERS and sailors ballot bill started out, in the House, with a simple and workable purpose. It attempted only what was practicable to attempt, and constitutional to accomplish. It merely set up machinery by which soldiers and sailors, who were entitled to vote by the laws of their respective states, could send in their ballots, in postal card form.



SULLIVAN

Even in this simple form, difficulties were encountered. The Army and Navy heads, perfectly willing to cooperate, pointed out that many soldiers and sailors are at far distant points—the Solomon Islands, India, Australia, North Africa. And the time until election—November 3—is short. So the bill, in the House, was made to apply only to soldiers and sailors within continental United States and Alaska. (Incidentally, the Army and Navy heads, with fine regard for avoiding politics, asked that the exact wording of the postal card blank be incorporated into the act—so that no officer in the field should be called on for interpretation, or for any other function except simply to see that the cards be delivered to the soldiers, and properly sent back to election officials at home.)

But in the Senate, amendments were introduced having purposes additional to the simple one of giving opportunity to vote to soldiers and sailors qualified to vote. One amendment was aimed at the poll tax, required in eight Southern States. It provided that soldiers should not "be required as a condition of voting . . . to pay any poll tax."

AUG 28 1942

ANOTHER AMENDMENT, likewise aimed at the South, where in some States the party primary is the real election, gave the absent soldier the right "to vote in primary elections." A refinement of this amendment rather grotesquely proposed to give the absent soldier the right to vote in party "caucuses or nominating conventions."

These and similar amendments were at once unworkable and unconstitutional. It is obviously unworkable that a soldier in the Solomon Islands should vote in a party caucus or nominating convention in the United States. And it is fundamentally unworkable for Congress to set up Federal qualifications for voting, which differ from qualifications set up by the States.

Congress can deal only with elections to Federal offices—Congress and President and Vice President (and can deal with these only to a limited degree). Hardly anyone ever pretended, before now, that Congress can set up qualifications for voters in elections to State and local offices—Governor, Legislature, sheriff, constable. Hence if some of these amendments to the pending bill were made law, there would be, as Senator Tydings of Maryland pointed out, two classes of voters. One class would be able to vote for candidates for Congress only; the other, able to vote for State and local officials also. Such a situation would be so novel as to be revolutionary. In every State and precinct, elections for Federal offices and State ones are held on the same day, at the same polling place, with the same election officials, with the candidates for all offices on the same ballot.

AUG 28 1942

MOST of the amendments were directly and flagrantly contrary to the Constitution. The qualifications of voters for members of Congress are set out in plain words. In two places, in identical words, the Constitution says that qualifications of voters shall be fixed, not by Congress, but by the States only; "The electors (voters) in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State Legislature."

Today and Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann which is used on this page Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday will not appear for several weeks. Mr. Lippmann has gone on a trip abroad.

The motives of those who proposed the amendments were various. Some amendments came from Republicans, who have been conscious of the Negro vote ever since the Civil War, and hence have always been eager to make political capital out of the limitations on voting in some Southern Democratic States, especially in primaries. To such Republicans are now added some Northern Democrats, likewise conscious of the Negro vote, for during recent years the Negro vote has become large in some Northern States.

Some of the motive was New Deal. Leading New Dealers are actively determined to get rid of the poll tax. They want to get rid of it for the sake of adding to their following some millions of persons who now do not ordinarily vote—because of unwillingness or inability or neglect to pay the poll tax, which in Georgia, for example, is $1, and in other States is similarly small.

Because abolishing the poll tax by local State legislation goes on only slowly and gradually, the New Dealers want to do it all at once, by action of Congress. Such action by Congress would be, both in itself and as an entering wedge, a step toward wiping out the boundary between State Government and Federal Government. This would serve the philosophy of the New Deal.

This was in the mind of Senator George of Georgia who, in the present debate, eloquently said, "I do not see how, in the long run, the dual system of government can prevail in America if the present tendency to invade the States shall continue." About another aspect of the present attempt, the effect on national unity for fighting the war, Senator George asked "whether we are more interested in social and political reforms of a certain stripe and character than in unity, the desire and willingness of our people to fight this war."

5?e-1942
Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

Votes For Soldiers

Of course, Americans generally will heartily approve of affording an opportunity for soldiers to vote. There undoubtedly, too, will be general approval of the idea of making their voting as easy as possible—by mail and without the payment of poll taxes. However, there is no little concern over what is clearly interjection of federal authority into a field of election regulation which has been reserved to the states.

SEP 1 2 1942

If the states are to be told what they are to do in respect of poll taxes, what is to keep the federal government from controlling these regulations entirely?

And with such a precedent having been established, would not the tendency for the federal government to do just that be greatly increased?

This point is highly pertinent and important, regardless of the controversy over the poll tax itself.

* * *

This newspaper believes that the poll taxes as now in effect in Alabama and seven other Southern states have established some great handicaps on the development of democracy in these states. They have worked very serious injustices. We favor a realistic, persistent effort to remove these undemocratic and dangerous inequities and discriminations. But we believe that the fixing of the qualifications for the electorate still should reside in the states. We think it is the states that should deal with the poll tax problem.

SEP 1 2 1942

Now that Congress has thus acted, however, it will be hoped that this will be regarded as a very extraordinary wartime measure, not setting up an example for other times or opening the way for other moves in this same direction.

All of us, at least, can be glad that it is our fighting men who are going to be the immediate beneficiaries of this legislation.

There are, we expect, going to be difficulties and complications in setting up the machinery to carry this program into effect. Many of the men away from home may themselves feel that they are not very well qualified to participate in the elections, from the standpoint of familiarity with candidates and issues. Nevertheless, there is something basically right about men fighting on battle fronts for democracy and freedom participating also in elections—even when they are far from home.

There surely would be something profoundly inconsistent in such men not having that privilege.

Consequently, we take a great deal of satisfaction in the prospective result of this action, although feeling that the method, in one particular at least, was wrong.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

SOLDIERS' VOTE BILL NEAR TEST

SEP 2 - 1942

Senate, House Conferees Approve Plans To Waive Poll Tax

BITTER-END FIGHT PLANNED BY MANY

SEP 2 - 1942

Rankin, Of Mississippi, Brands Bill As End To Election Laws

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1—(AP)—A bill giving members of the United States armed forces the right to vote by mail for national officials moved Tuesday toward a showdown in the House on a bitterly-contested amendment waiving payment of poll taxes required by eight Southern states.

Under Senate amendments approved by Senate and House conferees, men and women of the armed services would cast absentee ballots in primaries as well as general elections for senators, representatives and presidential electors without registration and without payment of the poll tax levied in Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, Texas, Virginia, South Carolina, Alabama and Georgia.

Army, Navy Against Plan

Even the provision opposed by the army and navy—extending voting privilege to service men on the high seas and on the world's far-flung battlefronts—was retained in the conference report approved over the opposition of Senator George (D., Ga.) and Representative Rankin, (D., Miss.)

Rankin said he would oppose the poll tax waiver "to the bitter end."

Acting House Speaker Bulwinkle (D., N.C.), said the conference report would be called up for House action Sept. 9.

Edgar G. Brown, president of the National Negro Council, described the conference agreement as "the greatest contribution to democracy since Lincoln signed the emancipation act."

SEP 2 - 1942

Rankin Denounces Plan

Rankin denounced the legislation as "an attempt to wipe out the election laws" and a part of "a long-range communistic program to change our form of government and our way of life, and to take the control of our elections out of the hands of white Americans in the various states."

The program, Rankin added, was designed to turn this control over to "irresponsible elements that are constantly trying to destroy private enterprise and to stir up race trouble, especially in the Southern states."

He said he and Senators George and Connally (D., Texas) would file a minority report.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Unregistered Soldiers Still Without Vote

SEP 2 - 1942

Bankhead, Disturbed By Assault On Poll Tax, Checks Off One Peril

Negro Not Affected

Senior Senator Promises

Finish Fight In Defense Of Southern Institutions

By ATTICUS MULLIN

Senator John H. Bankhead is disturbed by the Senate and House conferees agreement upon the Federal bill allowing soldiers to vote in the next general election in Alabama regardless of poll tax payments and in subsequent primaries so long as the war lasts.

SEP 2 - 1942

"I have three engagements to speak in Alabama this week on farm problems," said Senator Bankhead, "but I would cancel them and hasten to Washington, so grave is the situation about the soldier voting bill, except for the fact that I am advised that we can do nothing before next week and after Labor Day.

"It is my understanding," said Senator Bankhead, "that he bill before Congress and agreed to by the Senate and House conferees does not confer the right to vote upon negro soldiers, or even white ones, who have not registered under the Alabama law. My understanding is that the bill merely waives the payment of poll taxes as a provision of voting. That waiver, of course, is a deadly and dangerous thing and I shall fight it as hard as I ever fought anything in Congress."

SEP 2 - 1942

Senator Bankhead, when asked directly whether or not he would join in filibustering against the bill said, "I would have to be completely informed as to the provisions of the bill after the Senate and House conferees report it. We have filibustered against anti-lynching bills designed to cripple Southern institutions and of course we will continue to fight against any bill that would weaken our Southern institutions. As to whether I would filibuster or not would depend upon the terms of the measure as presented to the Senate. And if there were terms that would break down our Southern traditions I would stand where our forefathers have always stood."

Senator Bankhead will visit South Alabama this week speaking in Greenville Friday and Ozark Saturday. His speeches, of course, will deal with agricultural matters but after he is informed of the details of the Senate-House conference report on soldier voting in Washington, he may say something about that too, in his addresses.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

MEASURE TO GIVE VOTE TO SERVICE MEN GAINS

AUG 1 5 1942

Proposal Wins Support—Poll Tax Exemption Is Fought

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14.—(UP)—Strong support was registered Friday for a bill to permit absentee voting in Federal election by members of the armed forces, but a proposal by Senator Claude Pepper (D., Fla.), to exempt them from payment of poll taxes appeared doomed after having run afoult of a filibuster threat.

The Pepper suggestion was offered as an amendment to a House-approved bill which would permit soldiers, sailors and women serving with the armed forces in Continental United States to vote in their communities by mail. Hearings on the measure are being held by the Senate Privileges and Elections Committee.

Pepper argued that the bill's scope should be widened to include primary elections and abolish the poll tax requirement. He pointed out that the primary election is the determining election in Southern poll tax states.

"Obviously, in most Southern states, if a man can't vote in the primary, his vote doesn't count for much," Pepper said. "And making a voter pay a sum of money to vote is at war with every modern theory of Democracy I have heard about. It has disqualified more white people than negroes, and operates as a discriminatory bar against poor people."

AUG 1 5 1942

Committee members and representatives of veterans organizations, however, opposed his plan on the ground that such a controversial clause would delay passage of the bill until after the Fall elections.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Leaders Urge Campaign For Poll Tax Ban

SEP 3 1942

Hail Senate Vote On Bill For Soldiers

SEP 3 1942

NEW YORK—(SNS)—In a public statement released by the Workers Defense League, three Negro leaders hailed the action of the U. S. Senate in amending the soldier vote bill to suspend poll tax payments for members of the armed forces, and urged an intensified letters-to-Congress campaign to secure passage of the Pepper-Geyer Anti-Poll Tax Bill.

The call to action which was sent by the Workers Defense League to editors of 500 labor and Negro newspapers, was signed by B. F. McLaurin, national secretary of the March on Washington Movement and international representative of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, Miss Layle Lane, Vice-Chairman of the Workers Defense League and Miss Pauli Murray, national student chairman of the NAACP. The text follows:

SEP 3 1942

SHOULD HAIL ACTION

"All who feel that the four freedoms must be made a reality in America as well as a broad will hail the action of the United States Senate August 25 in adopting by a 33 to 20 vote an amendment to the "soldier vote bill" which would suspend for the duration of the war the poll tax laws in the eight poll tax states so far as military and naval forces are concerned.

"This victory is the first round of a battle to pass the Pepper-Geyer anti-poll tax bill. This vote is an object lesson which proves that the Southern Poll tax bloc can be cracked.

QUERY WALLACE MOVE

"We publicly wish to ask Vice-President Wallace why he appointed a majority of opponents of the poll tax amendments to the soldier vote bill to the conference committee which will have to discuss this provision with a committee from the House.

"All people who believe democracy must be exteneded at home have a job to do:

WRITE a letter or post card to the member of the House of Representatives from your district, telling him you want to know what he's doing on the poll tax front—both the soldiers vote bill and the Pepper-Geyer bill. Ask him to sign Discharge Petition No. 1 to bring the bil to a vote, and if he replies he has ask him to show he means business by speaking on the floor of the House and in public against the poll tax."

SEP 3 1942

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

SEP 19 1942

SOLDIERS' VOTES

The senate has postponed action on the bill to permit soldiers and sailors serving in this country to vote by mail. Sen. George of Georgia raised the constitutional point that the bill would give the federal government rather than the states control over elections and would thus "open the way to dictatorship." Sen. Barkley, the Democratic leader, took the same line. In his state, Kentucky, he said, the constitution required the personal appearance of voters at the polls and he doubted that congress could upset this provision.

SEP 19 1942

We don't believe it is necessary to consider such points in detail. The questions raised are of the sort which can be settled only by the courts. Certainly it would be a serious mistake to deprive soldiers from the other states of their votes merely because there are a few states like Kentucky which appear to have constitutional requirements of presence at the polls. There is no room to doubt that in the great majority of states, and probably in all of them, the withholding of the ballot from men in service is resented by the people as an injustice to be corrected promptly, before the election in November.

...ple which should govern this ...e who is serving his coun... and is of age to vote ... vote. The men wearing the uniform of the United States in a war for the preservation of republican liberties certainly should not be deprived of their rights as citizens of the republic merely because they are risking their lives for their country.

SEP 19 1942

One obstacle to the enactment of legislation for soldier voting has been southern prejudice. In many states of the south Negroes are prevented from voting either by legal technicalities or by threats. There may be objection in some southern communities to enfranchising Negro soldiers and possibly there are some congressmen so prejudiced in the matter that they would deny the vote to all soldiers, white and black alike, rather than permit a colored boy to cast his ballot. It is to be hoped that the tolerant majority will override this opposition. Any man fit to wear the uniform of his country is fit to vote as a citizen of it.

SEP 19 1942

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

HOUSE RETAINS POLL TAX BAN BY BIG MARGIN

SEP 10 1942

Ballots Not In by Election Void.

BY WILLARD EDWARDS.
[Chicago Tribune Press Service.]

Washington, D. C., Sept. 9.—By an overpowering vote of 247 to 53, the house today approved legislation extending to more than 4,000,000 men and women—in the land and naval forces of the United States the right to vote in the coming November and succeeding elections until the end of the war.

SEP 10 1942

Voting in the affirmative were 125 Republicans, 120 Democrats, 1 American-Laborite, and 1 Progressive. In the negative column were listed 52 Democrats and 1 Republican, Rep. Robert Rich [R., Pa.], who is retiring from congress this year. All members of the Chicagoland area voted for the measure.

SEP 10 1942

It was a step without precedent in the nation's history. Thrust aside were pleas that the bill was an invasion of state's rights because it sets aside all provisions of state laws relating to the registration of qualified voters. Activating the great majority of the members was the theme: "Any one willing to sacrifice his life in the country's defense has a right to vote."

Poll Tax Ban Remains.

Left in the bill was the controversial senate amendment providing that no person in military service in time of war shall be required to pay a poll tax. This was the object of vociferous protests from members of the eight southern states which enforce such a tax to prevent a majority of Negroes from voting. But the same theme voiced above, said supporters of the amendment, certainly applied to the 400,000 Negro troops in the armed forces.

The conference report on the bill on which the vote was taken requires the approval of the senate. This will be purely formal since the report embodies the legislation in the form it passed the senate. That approval may be given tomorrow and the bill sent to the White House.

Retention of the poll tax amendment was hailed as a notable victory for Sen. Wayland Brooks [R., Ill.], who offered it in the senate and fought so vigorously in its behalf that it passed by a vote of 47 to 5.

A motion by Rep. John E. Rankin [D., Miss.] to recommit the bill so that the poll tax amendment might be eliminated was easily defeated, 244 to 56.

SEP 10 1942

300 Members on Hand.

More than 300 members returned to Washington to participate in the vote on the measure. Last week there were scarcely 50 in the capital.

Rep. Hatton W. Sumners [D., Tex.], chairman of the judiciary committee, voiced the arguments of those resisting the bill because "it proposes to nullify state's rights."

"This is congress disregarding the constitution," he asserted. "What we need when the boys come back is to have a democracy left instead of a huge, overweening burocracy telling the states what they shall do."

"There is a communistic movement on here to abolish state governments," chimed in Rankin. "The next step will be to abolish the congress of the United States."

Income Tax Recalled.

Replied Rep. Everett M. Dirksen [R., Ill.]:

SEP 10 1942

"Back in 1895, before the Supreme court, it was asserted that the income tax would destroy the republic. Yet it became part of our constitution and the republic was not destroyed.

"Perhaps we should proceed in the constitutional way today but here is a question of justice and equity which overrides any legalistic concepts. If a young man is willing to lay down his life in Russia, Iceland, Africa, Australia, and other far parts of the world, he should have the franchise."

Every person serving in the land or naval forces of the nation is affected by the bill, including members of the Army Nurse corps, the Navy Nurse corps, the Women's Navy reserve, and the Women's Army Auxiliary corps.

SEP 10 1942

Method of Ballot.

It is up to these individuals to decide whether they wish to vote or not. If they do, they fill out postcards applying for an official war ballot which are sent to the secretary of state of the applicant's state. The secretary of state supplies election officials with names and addresses of the applicants which are made available for public inspection for checking purposes.

The secretary of state then orders printed an appropriate number of war ballots which shall conform generally to the regular official ballots. A similar number of official envelopes will accompany the ballots which are mailed to applicants. The man or woman in the armed forces marks his ballot and seals it in the envelope upon the surface of which his name and residence appears. Commissioned officers are qualified to administer the oath of qualifications which must accompany the ballot.

The ballots are mailed to the secretaries of state who transmit them to the appropriate election officials. The votes are canvassed in the usual manner. If they are received after the closing of the polls, they will not be valid. This last provision indicates that it will be useless for our men in Australia and other distant points to attempt to vote in the coming November election inasmuch as it will take some time for the above described procedure to be set up.

Nation
New York, N. Y.

The Poll Tax

MAR 2 - 1942

LIKE the fight against slavery before it, the fight against the poll tax is a fight to save the North and the rest of the country from the power wielded in Congress by a small and reactionary Southern oligarchy. The power of this oligarchy, once based on black slaves, is based today in large part on voteless men and women, white as well as black. An examination of Congressional committee chairmanships will show the extent to which these bodies are dominated by men who can return to Congress year after year because a majority of the voters in their states or districts are disfranchised. Northern big business is relying more and more on these "unrepresentatives" to pass reactionary measures which could not win the approval of a democratic electorate. Ten of the thirty-three standing committees in the Senate are headed by men from the eight poll-tax states, most of them men of the extreme right. These ten are Byrd, of Virginia, Rules; Glass, of Virginia, Appropriations; George, of Georgia, Finance; Connally, of Texas, Foreign Relations; Smith, of South Carolina, Agriculture and Forestry; Russell, of Georgia, Immigration; Bankhead, of Alabama, Immigration and Reclamation; Caraway, of Arkansas, Enrolled Bills; McKellar, of Tennessee, Post Office and Roads; and Hill, of Alabama, Expenditures of Executive Departments. Of the ten, only Hill can be counted a progressive.

MAR 21 1942

In the House twelve of the forty-four standing committees have chairmen from the poll-tax states: Fulmer, of South Carolina, Agriculture; Steagall, of Alabama, Banking and Currency; Ramspeck, of Georgia, Civil Service; McGehee, of Mississippi, Claims; Whittington, of Mississippi, Flood Control; Sumners, of Texas, Judiciary; Bland, of Virginia, Merchant Marine and Fisheries; Vinson, of Georgia, Naval Affairs; Lanham, of Texas, Public Roads and Grounds; Mansfield, of Texas, Rivers and Harbors; Rankin, of Mississippi, World War Veterans; and Jarman, of Alabama, Printing. A few of these occasionally turn up on the progressive side of an issue, but most of them are thoroughly reactionary.

MAR 2 - 194

The poll tax, by cutting down the number of voters, gives these men a permanence in Congress that men from other districts can rarely achieve. This fact in combination with the seniority system gives them key positions in the machinery of Congress. The committee chairmen wield great power over legislation, and thus the entire country may find itself governed by men who represent few people even in their own districts.

Since its adoption by Florida in 1889 the poll tax has become the principal Southern device for disfranchising the poor white as well as the Negro. It is time we realized that it disfranchises indirectly the rest of us as well.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Abolish Poll Tax Evil To Aid U. S. Democracy, Southerners Tell Senate

APR 5 - 1942

WASHINGTON, Apr. 2—The poll tax ought to be abolished as a prerequisite to voting in order to strengthen our democracy in this time of world crisis. That was the theme of the hearings held on the Pepper bill, S. 1280, during the middle of March.

A steady procession of persons from the South and North—coming as representatives of newspapers, schools and colleges, civic groups, labor unions, Negro groups and women's organizations—registered their disapproval of the tax, emphasized that it works in as a denial of democracy, and gave specific illustrations of the corruption which it breeds.

Representatives of many other organizations have requested an opportunity to testify, and are seeking extension of the hearings.

At least one more day of hearings is scheduled on the Pepper anti-poll tax bill to supplement the testimony given July 19, 1941, and March 12-14, 1942, before a sub-committee of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The additional testimony may be devoted exclusively to the constitutional aspects of the poll tax question and three eminent witnesses who will testify in favor of S. 1280 are Professors E. S. Corwin of Princeton university; Walton Hamilton of Yale university, and Lee Pressman, general counsel of the CIO.

The poll tax question can no longer be considered a problem confined to the South, the witnesses pointed out. It is nationwide, in that the representatives from the poll tax states in Congress have a hand in legislation which affects all the states.

It is international in that complete unity behind the war effort against fascism cannot be achieved until the country wipes out fascistic practices at home and proves to the people of the United States that democracy is a living philosophy worth defending.

APR 5 - 1942

Agar on Stand

Mr. Herbert Agar of the Louisville Courier Journal testified to the effect that the poll tax is a symbol of the sins which made the present war possible. He added:

"It is a symbol of undemocracy in a world which must stand or fall by its fidelity to the democratic creed. The result of a poll tax is to keep the poor from voting or to keep the Negroes from voting, or both.

"If you keep the poor from voting, you make a joke of Jefferson. If you keep the Negroes from voting you make a joke of a part of the Constitution. If you do both these things at the same time, you may make a joke of the American idea."

Mr. John Davis, executive secretary of the National Negro Congress, added weight to Mr. Agar's statement regarding the evils resulting from disfranchisement of the Negroes. Mrs. Kate Bradford Stockton, wife of a Tennessee dirt farmer, testified that the poll tax succeeds in disfranchising the poor.

MAR 5 1942

Miss Susan B. Anthony emphasized that the tax discriminates against women. When there is only enough money in the family to pay one poll tax, the man usually does the voting, she said.

Labor Witnesses

Witnesses representing labor included Mr J. G. Luhrsen of the Railway Labor Executives Association; Paul Scharrenberg, Legislative representative of the A. F. of L.; William Mitch, Yelverton Cowherd, Harry Koger, Lucy Randolph Mason, Homer Wilson, Bernard Borah, William Berry and Littleton Stewart of the CIO, Mr. Hollis Reed and Martin Miller of the Railway Brotherhoods.

Scharrenberg presented figures to prove that the states with the lowest per capita income are those in which this tax on voting is required. Cowherd indicated that corporations such as the Gulf States Steel Corporation pay the taxes of their employees and see to it that they vote "right" or lose their jobs.

Miss Lucy Randolph Mason, public relations counselor for the CIO in the South, expressed personal knowledge of block buying of votes in Georgia. Moss Plunkett testified to the same state of affairs in Virginia.

During the course of the hearings the chairman of the Senate judiciary subcommittee, Senator Joseph O'Mahoney of Wyoming, made a frank statement to the effect that he considers the poll tax an evil which should be abolished.

APR 5 - 1942

Dr. Will Alexander, a consultant for the War Production Board on minority groups, discussed the difficulty of ridding the states of the poll tax through state action.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

On The Abolishing Of Poll Taxes

MAR 30 1942

RECENTLY WE HAVE BEEN HEARING much about the growing movement for the abolition of Poll Taxes, and noted with no little concern the disposition in certain sections of the press to decry the effort on the usual grounds that to abolish poll taxes will precipitate a large scale entry into politics in the South on the part of its Negro citizens, thereby upsetting the political and social status quo: and the disposition of certain sections of the Negro press, in endorsing the movement to point to the abolition of Poll Taxes, as removing the most powerful barrier against the enjoyment of full citizenship rights on the part of the Negro people of the South.

MAR 30 1942

Enacted into law during the days of Reconstruction following the Civil War, it is a matter of common knowledge that the poll tax law was passed for the expressed purpose of keeping the newly-emancipated slaves out of politics, but as the Negro of the South acquired a measure of education and wealth, on this point the poll tax became less and less efficacious; in the last decade, becoming a sort of political Dr. Jekyl and Mr. Hyde affecting alike the suffrage of poorer classes of both races.

On the abolition of the poll taxes we share neither the pessimism nor the optimism observed, but would point out to the Negro citizens of the South as well as the nation, that, as poll taxes and in many other forms, the enjoyment of full political and civic rights and privileges still basically depends upon the willingness to accept and shoulder full political and civic responsibility.

—From The Jackson (Miss.) Advocate.

New Masses
New York, N. Y.

The Right to Vote

APR 7 - 1942

To NEW MASSES: While other people have been testifying before a Senate committee on the Pepper bill to abolish the poll tax in federal elections, I would like to get in a word too on this subject. I speak from experience, living as I do in the state of Tennessee where the right to vote depends on whether you have the cash. Luckily, I've always had it. Not only that, I have been able sometimes to "treat" less fortunate persons to a trip to the polls. On at least two occasions they asked me for the money telling me how they intended to vote, and I didn't ask. It was enough for me that they wanted intensely to exercise a right granted in the Constitution and stolen from them by an artificial device. It gives me a particularly sardonic feeling, therefore, when these poll-tax demagogues in Congress rise to rant about the Farm Security Administration "paying the poll tax" for poor people. The implication in their speeches is that the FSA has indulged in a covert form of vote-buying, for the benefit of the administration. What it *has* done, actually, is to loan the money to pay poll taxes that have "accumulated" for years and must be paid before the man who owes them can vote. The FSA does this on the perfectly logical grounds that security, to be real, must include the ability of an American citizen to function as a citizen—i.e., to vote. It is exactly the same logic under which I proceeded when I provided the wherewithal for some individuals to vote—no matter for whom, but to *vote*. I don't know a better reason for turning out the poll-taxers—by passing the Pepper bill—than the demonstration they are now giving of their "divine right" attitude in regard to their offices.

J. P. A.

Nashville, Tenn.

Nation
New York, N. Y.

It's Not the Poll Tax

APR 4 1942

Dear Sirs: I disagree most emphatically with your views on the poll tax, as expressed in your issue of March 21.

To say that the poll tax is disfranchising the voters is preposterous. I have lived in the South and worked at many tasks which brought me in contact with the workers. If a citizen cannot save up 150 pennies a year to help pay the cost of holding elections in a democracy, then he is not worthy of the privilege of voting. Let him take a few drinks of whiskey less, let him smoke a few packages of cigarettes less, let him spend a few dollars less in shooting craps.

COFFEY DEMANDS PASSAGE OF BILL

Pittsburgh, Pa
Pittsburgh Courier

APR 25 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C., Apr. 23—(ANP)—Declaring that the south must stop practicing subterfuges which are tearing down the soul of the nation, Channing H. Tobias told a group of 200 persons Monday nite at the National Press club that he stood for repeal of the vicious poll tax and all other restrictions against American citizens regardless of the circumstances that dictated them.

Called by the National Committee for the Repeal of the poll tax, the meeting was presided over by Ed Keating, former member of the house of representatives, new editor of the militant railroad magazine, "Labor".

Speakers included Edward L. Smith, CIO organizer, who was formerly a member of the labor relations board. Mr. Smith said the poll tax is a powerful obstacle to victory and it should be uprooted at once and the retention of the poll tax in the southern states is a disgrace and a calamity.

COFFEY RAPS POLL TAXERS

APR 25 1942

The practice marks the Negro as an inferior political class, Mr. Smith told the group, and it has hampered the full participation of the Negro in the war efforts.

Rep. John Coffey of the state of Washington waxed eloquent on the repeal of the poll tax and named several of his colleagues as being in congress because of the poll tax. He specifically named Martin Dies of Texas; Howard Smith of Virginia, and Eugene Cox of Georgia, all "obstructionists" of a sort, who represented a small class of the population even though congressmen from the poll tax states declare they have no political machines.

He further named Memphis with its vicious Crump machine, recently whitewashed and cleared by a near-investigation; the Talmadge regime in Georgia; the former horrible conditions in Louisiana before the repeal of the poll tax, and Texas, which gave to the senate "Pass the Biscuits Pappy" O'Donnell; the speaker of the house; the former vice president and chairman of eight important committees in the legislative body of the government through the poll tax system as exampes of the continuance in power of men through this method.

BEGIN AT HOME

"The continuance of the poll tax is a menace to the existence of the United States. The Wages and Hours bill was held up two years on account of the poll taxers' control of the rules committee which held up the bill," Mr. Coffey continued.

"In the interests of our future destiny, we should wipe out the poll tax, and the sooner the better", Mr. Coffey said. "It is a calculated plan and scheme to deprive people of the right to vote. We had better begin at home with some of the charity we want to infuse in the rest of the world. Give all of the people something to fight for in this war. We will have to teach many folk that the civil war is over".

Dr. Tobias the next speaker declared that the trouble within the United States was due to the culture of racialism. As such, it has to be broken. He referred to Thomas Jefferson's part in the documents which made America famous, the bill of rights, the Declaration of Independence and others which Mr. Jefferson helped frame. They did not go far enough because they did not include any specific aid to the Negro since all were written at a time when the Negro was still in slavery.

NEGROES WANT SOLID FRONT

"Negroes are more interested that America should present a solid front to the world in the interests of democracy than in any privilege for themselves. It is impossible for the nation to present this solid front as long as one-tenth of its citizens remain in some parts of the country in slavery and peonage. Therefore, it is important that the poll tax be repealed and the south take the risks that go with the repeal," concluded Dr. Tobias.

Other speakers included Father John Ryan and Mr. Scheenborn, of the AFL.

A full page advertisement in a local daily is planned at an early date and the following Negroes names will appear as signatories: Dr. Mordecai W. Johnson, president of Howard university; Dr. Rufus Clement, president of Atlanta university; A. Philip Randolph, president of the International Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, and Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Calls Poll Tax The Greatest Safeguard Of White Supremacy

SEP 19 1942

SEP 19 1942

M'COMB, Miss. — Accusing his opponents of injecting the Negro issue into the Democratic Senatorial runoff primary election by circulating a Negro newspaper published in Washington which endorses his candidacy because "I have nothing but Negro labor on my farm," Jim Eastland, protege of Governor Johnson, said it was an underhand trick to turn victory into defeat.

Referring to the Negro newspaper's statement, Eastland said, "I denounce this as contemptible. Bilbo has used the same contemptible falsehood against practically every high officeholder in Mississippi. Again, this is a vile slander of the good, true Christian white men and women who farm with me."

SEP 19 1942

Bilbo, he said, "should stand in with this Negro paper because both advocate the repeal of the poll tax which is the safest safeguard of white supremacy in the South."

52e-1942
Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Rankin Sees Peril In Poll Tax Repeal

SEP 24 1942

SEP 24 1942

Says Move Would 'Put Dynamite' Under Constitution

SEP 24 1942

By the Associated Press.

In the opening phase of a new Congressional fight on poll taxes, Representative Rankin (Democrat), Mississippi, declared on the floor of the House yesterday that members supporting repeal of the levy were "planting dynamite under the Constitution of the United States."

The Mississippian's assertion came as repeal proponents moved for a House vote on October 12, after having obtained the signatures of a majority of the House members to a petition forcing a repeal bill out of the judiciary committee.

Meanwhile, supporters of the bill quoted Senator Glass (Democrat), Virginia, in support of their contention that the tax was "intended to disfranchise a great majority of the Negroes" in eight Southern States levying it.

John F. Finerty of New York, counsel for the Workers Defense League, testified before a Senate Judiciary subcommittee that Glass told the Virginia Constitutional Convention at the time the tax was agreed upon for that State that "we are here to make distinctions."

Perils Primary System

SEP 24 1942

He quoted Glass as saying the mass of Negroes should not be permitted to vote. Morris Milgram, national secretary for the League, said adoption of the bill would be instrumental in "wiping out the white primary system of the South."

Chairman O'Mahoney (Democrat), Wyoming closed the hearings following Milgram's testimony with the announcement that opponents of the bill would be given until Monday to file briefs.

The speaker's office announced the 218th signature, constituting a majority, was obtained late Tuesday. The petition had been before the House since early last year after the Judiciary Committee failed to act on a repeal bill introduced on January 3, 1941, by the late Representative Geyer (Democrat) of California.

Rules Clarified

SEP 24 1942

Under House rules, any member who signed the petition may call up the bill for House action on the second or fourth Monday of any month, provided seven legislative days have passed since the required number of signatures were obtained. The rules limit debate to 20 minutes.

Representative Weiss Democrat) of Pennsylvania, one of the leaders in the poll tax repeal movement, said there was no doubt someone would be on hand to call up the bill.

Lewis Deschler, House parliamentarian, said the fact that not all of the signers were living—Geyer died last October—would not invalidate the petition, the House having so ruled in a previous case.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Poll Tax Bill Goes to House On October 12

SEP 23 1942

Passage Called Certain as Majority Sign Petition

SEP 23 1942

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22.—(AP) The 218th signature, last required to force house consideration of legislation banning poll taxes as a requirement for voting, was obtained today to a petition discharging the House Judiciary Committee from further jurisdiction over the measure.

Representative Weiss, Democrat, Pennsylvania, one of the signers, said the legislation would be called up in the house October 12, the first day it may be considered under house procedure. The fact that a majority of members had signed the petition, Weiss said, left no doubt of its passage.

SEP 23 1942

Introduced January 3, 1941, the repeal bill was referred to the judiciary committee, which failed to act on it, and its author, the late Representative Geyer, Democrat, California, circulated the petition to force consideration. The petition had been on the speaker's desk for more than a year, and while it was pending Geyer died last October.

SEP 23 1942

The legislation would bar payment of poll taxes as a requisite to voting in any election involving federal officers, such as President, Vice President or members of congress. Such taxes now are levied in a number of southern states.

Poll Tax Defended.

The poll tax was defended today before a Senate Judiciary Subcommittee by Attorney General A. P. Staples, of Virginia, as a legitimate source of revenue in poorer states of the south.

SEP 23 1942

Challenging the authority of congress to prohibit its collection as a qualification for voting, Staples said, "An unbroken line of supreme court decisions" upheld the exclusive constitutional right of the states to set up their own qualifications for electors.

SEP 23 1942

The last three signers of the house discharge petition were listed in order as Lamberton, Republican, Kansas; Murdock, Democrat, Arizona, and Clevenger, Republican, Ohio.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Erase Poll Taxes, Norris Demands

SEP 21 1942

Eight Southern States File Their Protests Tuesday

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20.—(AP)—Senator Norris (Ind.), Nebraska, said tonight he would insist upon "expiditious action" by a Senate judiciary subcommittee this week on a bill to prohibit poll taxes as a requirement for voting for national officials in primaries and general elections.

Norris said he believed that congressional passage and presidential approval last week of a bill to permit members of the armed forces to vote without paying poll taxes "gives assurance that Congress will vote to wipe out the poll tax entirely" as a requirement for voting in Federal elections.

SEP 21 1942

A meeting of the Senate subcommittee to consider the poll tax bill was called by Chairman O'Mahoney (D), Wyoming, for Tuesday. O'Mahoney said opponents of the bill, introduced by Senator Pepper (D), Florida, probably would be heard at that time.

O'Mahoney said the witnesses would include "some of the attorneys general" of the eight poll tax States, Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, Virginia, Texas, Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina.

SEP 21 1942

Meanwhile, Senator Guffey (D), Pennsylvania, chairman of the Democratic senatorial campaign committee, urged that the Fall political campaigns be brief and stripped of "haranguing and faultfinding."

"This is no time to put on an exhibition of national disunity, political or otherwise," he declared in a statement.

Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.

Way Cleared For Poll Tax Vote In House

SEP 23 1942

Death of Bill's Author Poses Problem

SEP 23 1942

The Courier-Journal Washington Bureau.

Washington, Sept. 22.—The opponents of poll tax restrictions which eight southern states impose upon voters won their year-long fight today to force an anti-poll tax bill out on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Representative Cliff Clevenger (R., Ohio) made his signature the 218th to be affixed to a petition to take away from the House Judiciary Committee the Geyer anti-poll tax bill. Representative Earl C. Michener (R., Mich.) tried to sign the petition, but the clerk of the House stopped him because 218 names are all the discharge petition requires.

SEP 23 1942

Action Possible Oct. 12.

Nothing further can happen on the Geyer bill until October 12, because the matter has to be on the House calendar seven legislative days. After that date Speaker Sam Rayburn is supposed to call upon the author of the bill to present it to the House.

However, the bill's author, Representative Lee Geyer of California, has been dead since last October. Defenders of the poll tax are hoping the speaker will rule that the discharge petition is null and void because the author is dead.

Members of the National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax are counting on the fact that such a ruling would arouse so much resentment that Mr. Rayburn would not dare make it. There is no House precedent to guide Mr. Rayburn, but the poll tax opponents say the natural course will be for him to call upon some representative who has signed the discharge petition and ask him to present the bill in place of the late Mr. Geyer.

The measure, which Chairman Hatton Sumners of Texas has kept bottled up in the judiciary committee for two years, provides that no poll tax payments may be required as a prerequisite for voting in elections for President, Vice President or members of the Senate or House of Representatives.

SEP 23 1942

Senate Bill Under Study.

A similar measure, by Senator Claude Pepper of Florida, is before a subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Defenders of the poll tax testified before the subcommittee today. They were headed by Abram C. Staples, Attorney General of Virginia, who was brought before the subcommittee by Senator Tom Connally of Texas.

Mr. Staples argued that federal legislation to abolish poll taxes is unconstitutional because the framers of the Constitution left to the states the question of who shall be able to vote, not only in state elections but also in elections for federal office holders.

Anti-Poll Tax Bill May Reach Senate Next Week

P.M., N.Y. SEP 25 1942

PM's Bureau SEP 25 1942

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25.—Two of the five members of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee considering the Pepper anti-poll tax bill are definitely in favor of reporting it out, a survey today disclosed. Two other members are non-committal, and one opposed.

PM's check-up indicated that there is a strong possibility of getting the poll tax bill out of the Senate Subcommittee next week. That action would break the only remaining bottleneck restraining Congressional action. SEP 25 1942

A House vote on the bill already has been assured by completion of a petition taking the measure away from the House Judiciary Committee, where it has been buried. Action by the Senate Judiciary Committee will assure similar consideration in the Senate.

Hearings Completed

The Judiciary Subcommittee, which has been considering the Pepper bill for about a year, completed hearings this week. Chairman Joseph C. O'Mahoney (D., Wyo.) said he would call a meeting next week to act on it. SEP 25 1942

The two members of the Subcommittee definitely in favor of reporting the bill are Sens. George W. Norris (Ind., Neb.) and Abe Murdock (D., Utah). The one definitely against it is Sen. Tom Connally (D., Tex.), who comes from a poll tax state.

This leaves the decision in the hands of Chairman O'Mahoney and Sen. Warren R. Austin (R., Ver.). Both have indicated they have some doubt about the constitutionality of the measure.

O'Mahoney told PM he did not yet care to commit himself on the constitutionality question, although he said he was in favor of the bill otherwise. And Austin said he did not want to comment on that issue until he had discussed it further with other Committee members. SEP 25 1942

How Partisans Feel

But Norris said he favored the bill and believed the Senate "will be in favor of it if it gets to the floor." Murdock said he was "very anxious to report it and get action on it."

Connally conceded that the Subcommittee and the full Committee probably would approve the bill. But he argued that it would be a violation of the Constitution.

"I am not in favor of the poll tax," Connally said, "but I want it left to the decision of the states. If you do this, you can do away with the residence laws and all other qualifications of voters. I am not in favor of the Federal government taking over the elections." SEP 25 1942

Sen. Claude Pepper (D., Fla.), the bill's author, contends that the poll tax is not a qualification, but a restriction or a condition on voting, which comes within the Federal jurisdiction to regulate elections of Federal officials.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

NO WAITING UNTIL AFTER ELECTION ON POLL TAX

SEP 25 1942

There is one thing Congress is not going to put off until after election, and that is discussion of the poll tax question. It is such good political ammunition outside the eight Southern states which levy the poll tax, that the opportunity to make capital out of it cannot be overlooked. Congress has been subpect to so much criticism that when a subject arises that affects no one but some small "states down South," it is pounced upon with alacrity.

Now that the poll tax issue is to be fought out in Congress, and a lot of representatives and senators are willing to invade a sacred right of states to define voting qualifications and requirements, there are two aspects which bring real concern to sincere advocates of the poll tax requirement. One is that the veteran Senator Norris of Nebraska champions poll tax repeal by Congress. The other is that the loudest opponent of repeal is Representative Rankin of Mississippi. Both are ominous. Senator Norris probably comes more nearly representing the innermost thoughts of the American people than any other living statesman. For nearly half a century Mr. Norris has always been one or two steps ahead of American public sentiment. He thinks today what others will be thinking tomorrow. The public life and acts of Senator Norris over a long period have been a relatively sure guide as to the course Congress and the nation would take. It is in that sense that he is the most remarkable statesman of his generation.

But what about Rankin? Listen to him denounce the proposed legislation as an "outrage against the South instigated by Communists and abetted by Japanese fifth columnists." If the championship of the poll tax must rest in the hands of that kind of leadership, we may as well kiss the poll tax goodbye. The poll tax South must blush for its spokesman. As this stage of the contest, whether we are personally and individually for or against a poll tax, it is important that we insist it is a question for the states to decide. If Alabama wants to get rid of the poll tax it is Alabama's business, not that of Congress. Congress has no authority to define the requirements for voting other than to carry out the mandates of the Constitution. Could Congress order the states to let women vote before the passage of the suffrage amendment? Certainly not. Neither can Congress now invade state borders and declare who shall and shall not cast ballots except in so far as Congressional legislation carries out the definite mandates of the Constitution. SEP 25 1942

The debate will be clouded by all kinds of charges and political demagogy, but the thing for all of us in the South is to insist that it is a domestic intrastate problem in each of the states and that Congress has no authority under the Constitution to say who shall elect "the most numerous branch of our state legislatures."

Star of Zion
Charlotte, N. C.

Poll Tax and the Ballot

SEP 24 1942

Zion Methodists are intensely interested in the fight to abolish the poll tax as a qualification for voting, for probably half of the constituency of our connection live in the so-called poll tax states.

A first skirmish of the battle has been won by the passage of war-time legislation to permit soldiers to vote without payment of the poll tax. We wonder, however, about the voting by soldiers who have not been registered at some time, unless this is provided for in the law. At any rate passage of this law, in the face of much opposition, is an encouraging sign that the poll tax is outmoded and in the last throes. SEP 24 1942

Oddly enough, while the major opposition to abolition of the poll tax comes from eight Southern States, which still retain it, one of the leaders in the fight to kill it is Senator Claude Pepper, of Florida, who is liberal enough to welcome the assistance of Negro newspapers, even those published in the North, and a complete victory is now altogether probable. SEP 24 1942

In opposing the measure to give the ballot to absentee soldiers, Congressman Rankin, of Mississippi, observed: "Representative government is trembling in the balance." Shades of night! Mr. Rankin, how can you be so naive as to make any such statement, when you know that ten or fifteen percent of the voters electing a represntative to Congress is not representative government?

Meanwhile it is interesting to observe that a good many members of the House from the South voted for the law permitting soldiers to vote without payment of the poll tax, which, as intimated, serves as a pretty good indication that the total law will be passed, if and when it comes to a vote in the Congress. SEP 24 1942

Though it is understanding how this ancient law would be a useful weapon in the states where it seemed desirable to disfranchise most of the voters, for we remember the franchise was originally allowed only to property owners, the fact that only eight states of the nation still retain it ought to be sufficient evidence that it is a bad thing and ought to be abolished, if for no other reason, because it is positively un-democratic.

Congress Probing Poll Tax Tyranny Puts Southern Hypocrisy On Spot

Pittsburg Courier
Pittsburg Penn.

Administration Paying Taxes for White Farmers Outrages Southern Senators—Race Must Accept Responsibility of Removing Voting Barriers.

FEB 28 1942

By EMMETT J. SCOTT

FEB 28 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 26—Again to the fore is discussion of the Poll-Tax Legislation of the Democratic South. It is having a more complete airing than ever before. A Congressional probe is now on, forced by admissions of the Chief of the Farm Security Administration that he has been, and is making loans for the payment of poll-taxes under the FSA program for the rehabilitation of destitute "White" farmers. Pure, unadulterated discrimination in Governmental administration!



DR. SCOTT

The lid was blown off at a U. S. Senate hearing of the Joint Committee on Non-Defense Expenditures. The actions of the FSA were denounced as amounting to a "national disgrace." Further, it is stated, the inquiry indicates "startling and shocking conditions of waste, extravangance, and indefensible practices."

FEB 28 1942

SOUTHERN HYPOCRISY

Southern Democratic Senators were angry, disgruntled, disgusted, outraged. Not,—bear in mind, because of the exclusion policy against Negroes, but particularly because they affect to fear "flagrant attempts to build up political pressure groups" in the South, probably to be used against these same perturbed statesmen. All of which exposes the hypocrisy of the Senatorial group who contend that the poll-tax payments by the Government are in violation of provisions of the Federal Constitution.

FEB 28 1942

The deceptions of Poll-Tax Legislation, fostered by the Democratic States of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia were not denounced, for it is well understood that back of it all is the preservation of oligarchic government in that region, and, fundamentally, to disfranchise as many as possible of the 12,500,000 Negro residents of that section.

The notion of these Democratic organizations is to prevent Federal relationship of any kind whatsoever, with likelihood of Negroes being allowed to exercise franchise privileges guaranteed by the XIV and XV Amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

THE REPRESSIVE SYSTEM

It is well known that the exaction of Poll-tax payments is but part and parcel of a repressive system, designed primarily to disfranchise Negroes. Its workings howevr have disfranchised more poor whites than Negroes in some of the Southern Democratic States. Highly organized political tyranny has followed.

The payment of poll-taxes through FSA is restricted to White farmers in the States where poll-taxes are involved to the exclusion of Negro farmers. C. B. Baldwin, Administrator of FSA, admitted under questioning before the Senatorial Committee that such is the case. To the Negro, of course, this not only is an unfair discrimination against his right to vote in the South being exercised, but is discrimination being exercised by a Governmental Bureau dispensing public funds. **It therefore becomes a double-barrelled offense against the rights of the** Negro, against the Constitution, and against every tenet of democracy.

FEB 28 1942

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

These observations are at point: On November 5, 1940—319,649 individual voters went to the polls in Rhode Island to select four Presidential Electors. This number is 79.7 per cent of the State's number of potential voters.

Compare Rhode Island's showing with the one made in South Carolina where only 99,832 votes were cast, a bare 8.8 per cent of the potential voters. But on this small vote South Carolina selected eight Presidential electors, or twice as many as Rhode Island.

That is, it required 79,912 votes in Rhode Island to determine the selection of one elector, while in South Carolina only 12,749 were required to accomplish the same result. 'An individual vote in South Carolina had more than six times as much effect in selecting a President and Vice President of the United States as an individual vote in Rhode Island.

For comparison's sake also note these figures: Alabama selected 11 electors while casting only 17.6 per cent of its potential voting strength; Georgia got 12 electors on a 16.3 per cent vote; Mississippi got nine electors on a 15.2 per cent vote and South Carolina, as mentioned above, got eight electors on a 8.8 per cent vote. These four Southern States, all of them employing the poll-tax system, had 40 electors on a total popular vote of 882,414.

FEB 28 1942

AN INTOLERABLY UNJUST PRACTICE

This state of affairs is outrageously, intolerably unfair, unjust. How much longer a fractional democracy is to control the affairs of this country is a question for an enlightened Congress to decide. Isn't it about time for this Democratic machine-politicians' paradise to be destroyed?

President Roosevelt comes into this picture in a somewhat unfavorable way. In 1938, the Associated Press reported him as expressing sympathetic opposition to State poll-tax payments, saying they disfranchised large portions of the popclation, and defended the right of these disfranchised persons to vote. Previously he had endorsed a proposed Arkansas Constitutional amendment to abolish the State poll-tax.

When the FSA inquiry revealed the fact that one of the agencies of his Administration was paying poll-taxes, by loans to White farmers only,—it may be stated—he scorchingly condemned the practice. A few days later he repudiated his former statement.

SOUTHERN SENATOR FLAYS PRACTICE

Even Senator Pepper of Florida, whose "affection" for Negroes is well-known, has declared that poll-taxes in eight Southern States have been used to 'pollute, contaminate and prostitute" the election of Federal officials. The Senator probably knows. Also, he has called upon Congress to declare their application to Federal elections to be unlawful, and remarked that "it is a monstrous suggestion that a State confers the right to vote for Federal officials."

Negroes of Northern, Eastern and Western States, who enjoy the voting privileges of those regions, owe a duty and responsibility to their kinsmen in the South to urge upon their Senatorial and Congressional representatives the abolition of this tyrannical practice. **The present limitation of suffrage debases—it deos not dignify —democracy.**

FEB 28 1942

While the nation is fighting for its very existence; while we are fighting, as we say, for the spread of democratic principles throughout the world, this is a good time for us truly and realistically to practice some real democracy right here in our own country.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

ASK ME WOMEN TO FIGHT POLL TAX

MAR 1 - 1942

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Feb. 26—(ANP)—A quarter of a million Methodist women in nine suotheastern states are being called upon by their leaders to work for the elimination of the white primary and the poll tax, as two items of the most thoroughgoing program of social, economic, and interracial justice ever undertaken by a great church group.

This program was outlined here a few days ago by a representative planning commission of 150 women from all parts of the region. It will be passed down to more than 6,000 local church societies, with a total membership of 250,000, in the southeastern jurisdiction of the Methodist church. Among other recommendations embodied in the plan the following are of special interest.

MAR 1 - 1942

Opposition to the injection of the race issue into political campaigns.

Federal aid to public education.

Citizenship classes for all new voters.

MAR 1 1942

Check on programs of government aid to Negroes in agriculture, health and welfare.

Check on school facilities, and on employment practices in defense industries.

Endorsement of the methods of interracial cooperation demonstrated by the Southern Interracial commission.

Recognition of the right of collective bargaining; study of cooperatives; and efforts to improve hours, wages, and working conditions in domestic service.

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

ALABAMA'S PROBLEM

SEP 18 1942

"Washington is no place for Alabama's poll tax laws to be changed by those who do not understand nor have sympathy with our problems." "Press" of Mobile, Ala.

Well, as a matter of fact, there is not an intelligent person in Washington or elsewhere in this country who does not FULLY understand "Alabama's Problem."

SEP 18 1942

It is a problem of keeping a privileged few in power so they can exploit the masses of the state. That cannot be done if the poll tax is repealed and the masses are allowed to vote. The ruling class does not intend ever to repeal the poll tax. That decision brings up for discussion a "National Problem" which Alabama doesn't understand and for which Alabama's ruling class has no sympathy. It is the problem of how this nation will go about enforcing that provision of the Federal Constitution to see that EACH state shall maintain a REPUBLICAN FORM OF GOVERNMENT—one where the people freely and fairly participate in the election of the officials that are to run their state governments.

CONGRESS PROBING POLL TAX TYRANNY IN SOUTH

St. Louis Call
St. Louis, Mo.

By EMMETT J. SCOTT

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Again to the fore is discussion of the Poll-Tax Legislation of the Democratic South. It is having a more complete airing than ever before. A Congressional probe is now on, forced by admissions of the Chief of the Farm Security Administration that he has been, and is making loans for the payment of poll-taxes under the FSA program for the rehabilitation of destitute "White" farmers. Pure, unadulterated discrimination in Governmental administration!

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The deceptions of Poll-Tax Legislation, fostered by the Democratic States of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virgina were not denounced for it is well understood that back of it all is the preservation of oligarchic government in that region, and, fundamentally, to disfranchise as many as possible of the 12,500,000 Negro residents of that section.

The notion of those Democratic organizations is to prevent Federal relationship of any kind whatsoever, with likelihood of Negroes being allowed to exercise franchise privileges guaranteed by the XIV and XV amendments to the Constitution of the United States. Highly organized political tyranny has followed.

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Following the last presidental election, the Congressional Record reported a Northern Congressman as stating:—"In the 1940 presidental election almost four-fifths of the potential voters in the 8 poll tax states were denied a ballot. In the states which did not obstruct the right to vote with a dollar sign, the proportion of potential voters who casts ballots averaged more than 70 percent, while in the states which required the payment f a poll-tax the number of voters averaged 21.10 per cent. Clearly, as long as the dollar sign is made a bar to voting in any part of the United States, American democracy will continue to be what has so aptly been termed a 'fractional democarcy' ".

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When the FSA inquiry revealed the fact that one of the agencies of his Administration was paying poll-taxes, by loans to White farmers only,—it may be stated—he scorchingly condemned the practice. A few days later he repudiated his former statement. This led the Washington (D.C.) Post to say:

> "It does not in the least matter whether the FSA pays poll taxes direclty for farmers or permits those taxes to be entered among necessary expediture items taken into account when the FSA makes loans to farm clients. In either case, the net result is the same: some thousands of farmers who would otherwise be delinquent are given the means to pay poll taxes. So the President is just confusing the issue when he tries to justify his about-face in respect to these poll-tax payments by explaining that he had mistakenly assumed the payments were direct".

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While the nation is fighting for its very existence; while we are fighting, as we say, for the spread of democratic principles throughout the world, this is a good time for us truly and realistically to practice some real democracy right here in our own country.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Hearings Open Today on Bill To Bar Poll Tax

Green and Murray Will Testify During 4-Day Senate Session

(Daily Worker Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON March 11. — The long-awaited public hearings on the Pepper Anti-Poll Tax Bill will start tomorrow with a long list of distinguished witnesses appearing before a Senate subcommittee to urge abolition of the tax in eight Southern states.

Among the first-day witnesses scheduled to be heard are Dr. Will Alexander, consultant on minority groups for the War Production Board; Dr. Frank Graham, President of the University of North Carolina; and Miss Lucy Randolph Mason, CIO Southern representative.

Only four days of hearings have been scheduled so far, but the committee is being asked to extend the hearings to accommodate the large number of trade unions, progressive, Negro and civil rights organizations who have asked to testify in favor of the bill.

Introduced by Senator Claude Pepper of Florida, the measure, S. 1280, calls for abolition of the poll tax in all federal elections and primaries on the grounds that the poll tax is not a true qualification for voting within the meaning of the Constitution.

Members of the subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee who are conducting the hearings are Senators Joseph C. O'Mahoney of Wyoming, Chairman, Abe Murdock of Utah, George W. Norris, of Nebraska, Tom Connally of Texas, and Warren R. Austin of Vermont.

Present poll tax requirements in eight Southern states — Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Texas and Arkansas — bar millions of low-income citizens from voting in federal as well as state and local elections.

President Roosevelt recently attacked the poll tax as a practice that has prevented many poor people in the South from voting.

Although a bill was introduced in the House in 1939 by the late Rep. Lee Geyer of California, no action has been taken on it. There is now a petition drive underway to discharge the Judiciary Committee from further consideration of the bill so it may be brought to a vote in the House.

AGAR FIRST WITNESS

First witness to testify tomorrow will be Herbert Agar, editor of the Louisiana Courier-Journal and one of the South's outstanding journalists. Silliman Evans, publisher of the Chicago Sun and Nashville Tennessean, is also scheduled to appear.

Senator O'Mahoney, chairman of the sub-committee, has promised representatives of the National Negro Congress and other Negro organizations that they will be allowed to testify sometime during the four-day hearings.

The second day of hearings, Friday, March 13, will be opened by AFL President William Green whose organization has endorsed the principles of the Pepper bill. Also scheduled to testify are John L. Lewis, and William Mitch of the United Mine Workers, and Yelverton Cowherd, CIO regional director in Birmingham, Alabama.

CIO President Philip Murray, and Lee Pressman, CIO General Counsel, will head the list of witnesses on the third day.

Among the many other organizations and individuals who have asked to testify, but not yet been allotted a definite time, are the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, A. Clayton Powell, New York Councilman, CIO United Electrical Workers Union the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, the Southern Conference for Human Welfare and the Southern Electoral Reform League.

52e-1942

Age-Herald

Birmingham, Ala.

POLL TAX BAN GETS BY HOUSE, GOES TO SENATE

OCT 14 1942

BY ALEX H. SINGLETON

WASHINGTON, Oct. 13—(AP)—A measure outlawing the poll tax as a prerequisite for voting was passed overwhelmingly by the House late Tuesday after a bitter sectional fight centering around the issues of states' rights, the bill's constitutionality and the vote for the Negro.

Fiercely but futilely, a Southern bloc battled the measure down to the final 252 to 84 roll call vote which sent it on to the Senate, with Representative Colmer (D., Miss.) assailing his Northern Democratic colleagues for their "ingratitude" to the solid South.

But, from the measure's supporters came the cry that the Negro now is fighting for this country, that he is entitled to vote for its officials; that the legislation would carry this country's message of Democracy to oppressed people the world over.

OCT 14 1942

Colmer declared that the bill's direct object was "to enfranchise the Negro in the South." "Today," he said, "we see the sorry spectacle of that (Democratic) party, joining hands with the Republican party; nay, more than that, taking the leadership in trying to pass another force bill."

OCT 14 1942

He said the measure would prevent "the people of the Southland from even controlling their own election laws, their own state primaries, and meeting their own problems which are peculiar to that section."

Negro Representative Speaks

In one of his infrequent speeches on the floor, Rep. Mitchell (D., Ill.), only Negro member of Congress, pleaded for the bill's passage, asserting that "there would not be one tenth of the opposition . . . if the Negro was not involved in this thing."

"If the Negro is good enough to live in this country," he shouted, "if he is good enough to wear the uniform of his country, if he is good enough to shed his blood for this country, then he is entitled to vote in peacetime as well as in war time."

Eight states—Tennessee, Virginia, Arkansas, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Texas—require the payment of poll taxes as a condition for voting—and it was from their representatives that the chief opposition stemmed.

The controversial issue—long pigeon-holed in the House judiciary committee—came up for House consideration only after it was forced to the floor by a discharge petition introduced early last year by the Late Representative Geyer (D., Calif.) and signed by a majority of the members.

Spearheading the opposition, Chairman Sumners (D., Tex.) of the judiciary committee termed the measure unconstitutional, declared that it was being pushed by "pressure groups," and asserted:

Showdown Foreseen

"I think we are coming to a showdown in America as to whether we are going to preserve democracy or not . . . If you do succeed in breaking through the constitutional barrier, then you have a situation under which there would be no effective restraint on the power of Congress to fix qualifications of voters."

"Thousands of people disfranchised by the poll tax are serving in the armed forces of the United States," countered Representative Wasielewski (D., Wis.). "Is it fair to deny them the right to express their will as to the people who will represent them? We cannot fight for freedom and then deny its existence, to any degree whatsoever, to any group, any place, in America."

From Representative Faddis (D., Pa.) came the argument that the CIO was instrumental in forcing the bill to the floor in order to gain voting support in the Southland.

"This organization," he told his colleagues, "is out to increase its potential voting strength with which to augment the political power of its leadership . . . They are endeavoring to establish a dictatorship which will do more harm to the cause of labor than anything which has happened within a century."

Sarcasm Noted

In tones of deep sarcasm, Representative Brown (D., Ga.) noted that the chief support of the legislation came from the metropolitan areas of the North, and observed: "I never thought that the day would come when the crusaders of New York and Chicago would be called upon to purify and regulate the ballot box of my state."

Meanwhile, Govs. R. M. Jeffries of South Carolina and Frank M. Dixon, of Alabama, both Democrats, appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee to enter their opposition to a similar anti-poll tax bill.

Jeffries told the committee that the poll tax in his state was levied to finance educational work and was not a barrier against voting in general elections, while Dixon maintained that the bill was being backed by pressure groups and "social reformers."

Patrick Favors, Jarman Raps Bill Outlawing Poll Tax

WASHINGTON, Oct. 13—In a minority report from Alabama, Representative Luther Patrick, of the Ninth District, Tuesday denounced the poll tax as a qualification for voting and told the House it was designed "to restrict participation in elections and protect and perpetuate the rule of a reactionary oligarchy."

Patrick spoke a few hours after Gov. Frank M. Dixon testified before a Senate judiciary sub-committee in opposition to federal repeal of the poll tax laws of eight Southern states. Other members of the Alabama Congressional delegation had indicated their opposition to the Geyer and Pepper bill.

Representative Pete Jarman, of the Sixth District, spoke immediately before Patrick, describing the bill as "'nefarious."

Patrick, however, declared that the poll tax "gives an advantage and an edge to the rich, the powerful, the specially organized forces, yes, and to the vote manipulator." He described Alabama as "the most extreme poll tax state."

Three States Praised

He said the poll taxes "do effectively accomplish the end of disfranchising very large sections of the electorate, and breaking and tending to reverse the wheels of Democratic progress." He praised North Carolina, Louisiana and Florida for abolishing the tax.

"Under the Alabama system," Patrick added, "a few years of poverty are sufficient to build up a barrier which is likely to exclude a citizen permanently from the polls." He said Gov. Dixon was elected four years ago "on a platform which included electorial reform—four years have passed but no action has been taken."

"The reactionary political and economic interests would like to keep the South in a semi-feudal condition," the Alabamian said. "The spokesmen of these interests want to do nothing about the pressing problems of today.

"They want to do nothing about farm tenancy. They want to do nothing about improving the conditions of labor. They like to prate about Democracy with a capital D but they know nothing about Democracy with a small D.

Interests Asserted

"We are not interested in voting as any empty symbolic form. We are interested in voting as an essential step in carrying out the social and economic reforms which the South needs more than any other section of the country." He added that the government of the South has fallen "into the hands of the few without the participation of the many."

Patrick said in ancient Greece the poll tax "was exacted of conquered foreigners as a mark of subjugation and inferiority."

But the use of the poll tax as an electoral measure, he argued, is another story. "On the electoral side, it is a descendant—and it seems to me an illegitimate descendant of the system of property qualifications on suffrage which prevailed in all our states at the time of the revolution."

Jarman had told the House, "I do not believe in mob law and action," and, "I do not believe in mob legislation."

"Neither do I believe in rape," he shouted, "whether it be of the constitution or the other kind.

"I do believe in states' rights. This is no time for the great Congress of the United States to occupy itself with $1.50 legislation. In Alabama our people are not purchasable by $1.50.

Jarman said "it is not the will of the House to vote for this bill—it is the will of 218 members"—the 218 members constituting a majority of the House who signed the discharge petition. He said such action was mob action.

"I signed one discharge petition when I was a freshman member and didn't know what I was doing," Jarman explained. "I will never do it again."

House Outlaws Poll Tax Use To Bar Voters

Courier Journal

Louisville Ky.

Southern Bloc Fights Bill In Vain

By the Associated Press.

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Fiercely but futilely a Southern bloc battled the measure down to the final 252 to 84 rollcall vote which sent it on to the Senate, with Representative Colmer (D., Miss.) assailing his Northern Democratic colleagues for their "ingratitude" to the Solid South.

OCT 14 1942

Votes for Negroes Urged.

But from the measure's supporters came the cry that the Negro now is fighting for this country, that he is entitled to vote for its officials, that the legislation would carry this country's message of democracy to oppressed people the world over.

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OCT 14 1942

Negro Congressman Pleads.

In one of his infrequent speeches on the floor, Representative Mitchell (D., Ill.), only Negro member of Congress, pleaded for the bill's passage, asserting that "there would not be one-tenth of the opposition . . . if the Negro was not involved in this thing."

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Kentuckians Divided.

This is how Kentucky Representatives voted on the poll tax bill:

Democrats for: May, O'Neal and Spence.

Republicans for: Robsion.

Congressmen Gregory and Chapman were paired against the bill with two Congressmen for it.

Representatives Bates, Creal and Vincent were not recorded.

Meanwhile Gov. R. M. Jeffries of South Carolina and Gov. Frank M. Dixon of Alabama, both Democrats, appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee to enter their opposition to a similar anti-poll tax bill.

OCT 14 1942

Jeffries told the committee that the poll tax in his state was levied to finance educational work and was not a barrier against voting in general elec-

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

The Core Of The Argument

(From Lighthouse and Informer, Charleston, S. C.)

OCT 8 - 1942

This year, next, maybe ten or twenty years hence, the eight southern states now subscribing to the poll tax as a pre-requisite to voting in federal elections, will have to revise their cherished holdings. If the present effort against the tax should spend its energy too soon, it will return again, in stronger force.

OCT 8 - 1942

Objection to the poll tax is not so much objection to the right of a state to levy fees and prescribe its election laws as, objection to requiring a state fee for a federal franchise. In other words, the affected states can levy their poll or head tax, if they wish but they must so revise their laws around it that it be not required to vote in federal elections. The logic is the same as governs "tax free" federal buildings, vehicles and merchandise in the several states; it seems sound and sensible.

OCT 8 - 1942

These contending now that the poll tax provides important revenue and, is an institution guaranteed by the "State's right" clause of the Federal Constitution, conveniently close their eyes to: 1. The poll taxing states are the poorest financially and have the poorest schools in the Union, and that only meager effort is made to enforce the tax collections. Truth is, the alleged important revenue frm the tax is not being collected. 2. For some ten years now the right of a state to administer its affairs has been gradually subsidized in federal grants which have resulted in having on hand "naked" and bare commonwealths, whose leaders and rulers stand ready to dispose of remnants of their once cherished independence on the first handing out their senators and congressmen can start moving. The federal trademark and label is carved in plaques of public schools, buildings, street corners and utility supplies. "Our leaders" have said not a word while the gravy was flowing. Who cared about state rights then?

OCT 8 - 1942

Though arguments against abolishing the poll tax sound good, nobody is fooled. The core of the argument is a strong one, and if pressed, will stifle the south for answers.

Christian Index
Jackson, Tennessee

A VOTE ON POLL TAX

OCT 1 - 1942

REPRESENTATIVE Rankin of Mississippi is now shouting that the mere conideration of the abolition of the "Poll Tax," and arbitrary limitation on the right to vote, is "planting dynamite under the Constitution of the United States." What he and his colleagues from the eight poll-tax states really fear is that the constitutional granting of the franchise to all citizens in the South might mean dynamite under their jobs.

Senator Carter Glass is quoted as having said at the Virginia Constitutional Convention that Negroes must not be permitted to vote lest it mean the destruction of white supremacy. That is one of the real reasons for opposition to this reform.

OCT 1 - 1942

The majority of members of the House of Representatives have demonstrated their practical democracy—at a time when every speaker is talking about the war in defense of democracy—by forcing the poll tax repeal bill out of its dusty pigeon-hole in the Judiciary Committee and bringing it up for a vote on October 12. It would be a grand celebration indeed, if the anniversary of the New World's discovery, if the House of Representatives struck down this sin against the freedom for which America stands.

OCT 1 - 1942

It would be a real demonstration of sincerity on the part of the United States Congress to follow the example of Senator Pepper's and other leaders in Congress by joining hands and helping to purge the remaining eight poll tax states of the South of the "anti-democratic stigma" of the poll tax.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

House Votes To Outlaw Poll Tax Law

OCT 14 1942

Bitter Debate Of South's Members Fail To Stay Action Of Reformers

Gov. Dixon Heard

Hopes Of Eight States In Which Tax Is Used Are Now Up To The Senate

OCT 14 1942

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Fiercely but futilely, a Southern bloc battled the measure down to the final 252 to 84 roll call vote which sent it on to the Senate, with Representative Colmer (D), Mississippi, assailing his Northern Democratic colleagues for their "ingratitude" to the solid South.

But, from the measure's supporters came the cry that the negro now is fighting for this country, that he is entitled to vote for its officials; that the legislation would carry this country's message of democracy to oppressed people the world over.

Colmer declared that the bill's direct object was "to enfranchise the negro in the South." "Today," he said, "we see the sorry spectacle of that (Democratic) party, joining hands with the Republican party; nay, more than that, taking the leadership in trying to pass another force bill."

He said the measure would prevent "the people of the Southland from even controlling their own election laws, their own State primaries, and meeting their own problems which are peculiar to that section."

Negro Urges Passage

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OCT 14 1942

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Spearheading the opposition, Chairman Sumners (D), Texas, of the judiciary committee termed the measure unconstitutional; declared that it was being pushed by "pressure groups," and asserted:

"I think we are coming to a showdown in America as to whether we are going to preserve democracy or not. . . . If you do succeed in breaking through the constitutional barrier, then you have a situation under which there would be no effective restraint on the power of Congress to fix qualifications of voters."

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"Thousands of people disfranchised by the poll tax are serving in the armed forces of the United States," countered Representative Wasielewski (D), Wisconsin. "Is it fair to deny them the right to express their will as to the people who will represent them? We can not fight for freedom and then deny its existence, to any degree whatsoever, to any group, any place, in America."

In tones of deep sarcasm, Representative Brown (D), Georgia, noted that the chief support of the legislation came from the Metropolitan areas of the North, and observed: "I never thought that the day would come when the crusaders of New York and Chicago would be called upon to purify and regulate the ballot box of my State."

Meanwhile, Govs. R. M. Jeffries, of South Carolina, and Frank M. Dixon, of Alabama, both Democrats, appeared before the Senate judiciary committee to enter their opposition to a similar anti poll tax bill.

Dixon said the bill was "simply part of the general scheme of pressure groups and social reformers to abolish the Federal-State relationship under which this has become the greatest democracy in history, to secure a concentration of all governmental power in Washington, where it may more easily be swayed to their pet schemes of social reform."

Senator Pepper (D), Florida, who appeared at the hearing later, denied that he sponsored the bill under pressure of any group, and added:

OCT 14 1942

"My people have been Southerners as long as Gov. Dixon's. What I believe is that if we are going to preach and fight for democracy abroad we should practice it at home."

Gov. Jeffries denied that the poll tax in South Carolina disfranchised anyone, and said it is used for educational purposes.

States Rights Defended

In denouncing any effort by Congress to determine the qualifications for voting in South Carolina, as unconstitutional, he said:

"We still believe that the Democratic party is the States rights party and we do not believe that such a party now in power in the national Congress will 'sell us down the river' by enacting legislation which would so clearly violate the rights of individual States."

Asserting that peace time, not the middle of a war, was the time to institute social reforms, Dixon declared:

"In peace time we can afford to bicker, to fight, to change forms of government if we will. In peace time the sky is the limit for the reformers. Hasn't the time come to call a halt now?"

The fight between the poll tax advocates and those who seek its removal, Dixon said, had caused "to have emblazoned before our enemies a false record of shame."

"The people of utterly loyal and create the feeling of injustice," he added, "are put on trial as if they were enemies."

"Would passage of the bill leave the impression in the eight States collecting it the impression that they were barbarous.

OCT 14 1942

"Senator Connally (D), Texas, asked

52e - 1942
Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

CONGRESSMAN SULLIVAN—ANTI-POLL TAX

OCT 9 - 1942

We were pleased to have a few lines from Congressman John B. Sullivan of the Eleventh Congressional District in which he states that he is all geared for the fight to pass the Geyer Anti-Poll Tax Bill which will be called for action in the House of Representatives October 12.

We are pleased to relay Mr. Sullivan's message to the voters of this district to remind them that their Congressman is on the job at Washington, fighting for a righteous cause.

As we all know, those who are opposing the bill are the "die hard" reprsentatives from the southern states. And while it is true that much opposition is expected, Mr. Sullivan says: "We expect a bitter fight, but we expect to win, as it is just and righteous." Mr. Sullivan voted to take the bill from the committee so that it can be voted on by the House.

CONGRATULATIONS, POST-DISPATCH

As an expression of our appreciation for the article appearing in the Post-Dispatch, date of October 6, we congratulate that daily paper for its fine spirit of justice and fair play by giving wide publicity to an article written by one of our fellow citizens, espousing the cause of a minority group. We give these expressions because it is not often that one of our race, especially in this section of the country, is given choice space in a great metropolitan daily as was given Mr. Frank L. Williams whose article entitled, "Democracy And The Negro" appeared in the Post-Dispatch under the widely read column, "MIRROR OF PUBLIC OPINION."

The significance of the publication of this article lay, first, in the fact that it was well written, setting forth the cause of many of our grievances which hinder the free working of this so-called democracy; and secondly the Post-Dispatch, recognizing the value of such a message in times like these, gave it wide publicity. Thus we feel obligated to our fellow citizen for writing the message, and congratulate the Post-Dispatch upon its interest in the cause as was expressed by publishing it.

YW BUILDING FUND

The campaign committee which sponsored the drive for the Wheatley Branch YWCA Building Fund is making a special effort to collect the final installment on the unpaid pledges.

A strong appeal is being made to impress upon the subscribers the duty and responsibility of paying their pledges. It is pointed out by the committee that upon these pledges the Association borrowed money so that the building immediately could be made available for the use of the women and girls of our community. This obligation is past due and we, the subscribers, must not default in paying our pledges. Should you receive a notice or a telephone call, reminding you of your obligation, please respond at once because those who have trusted us are expecting every nickel of the pledges to be paid.

THE U. S. SENATE AND THE POLL TAX BILL

OCT 9 - 1942

Extra! Extra!! The call of duty is upon us. The Senate Judiciary Subcommittee, considering the anti-poll tax bill, has ruled that the bill was unconstitutional in that it interfered

Poll Tax

with state rights. In the meanwhile it is expected, however, that a similar bill will be passed by the House of Representatives on Monday, October 12. Therefore, it will be the duty of all patriotic Americans to immediately write their Senators urging them to vote for the anti-poll tax bill.

This is one time that the full force of those interested in justice and fair play should be put into action by flooding the Senate with letters and telegrams protesting the action of the Judiciary Subcommittee.

OCT 9 - 1942

As we make this comment we have the assurance of the active support of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, as well as the March on Washington Committee.

The importance of this action may be seen in the fact hat not only are Negroes disfranchised in the South, but white people by the millions are also disfranchised in one section of this country, of which we boast as a great democracy.

NEW STATE CONSTITUTION

We have noted with a deal of interest that many, many of our leading citizens are giving of their time and money and intelligence to help foster a constitutional convention which will be voted on at the November election. The purpose of the constitutional convention is to change our present constitution, and this of course, is in keeping with modern thought. But in our judgment the time is not ripe for changing the Missouri Constitution. We should wait until the terms of a national peace have been written. By that time thousands and thousands of Missouri citizens, both men and women, will have returned from the battlefields and they, too, will have an interest in a new constitution.

By that time all of us will be living in a new world. New thoughts, new habits and new environs will be the order of the day. Thus new citizens will govern the affairs of the state as a result of new thinking. We will be in a position to understand ourselves better. We will be in a position to better understand our relation to our fellow man. We will understand as never before, that no one group of citizens has any priority over another based upon race, creed or national origin. We will understand more than ever before something about this thing we call democracy.

To write a new constitution now, would, we think, be a mistake—one that many of us will live to regret. The present constitution has some of the rotten boughs of southern prejudice written into it. After the war a deal of these prejudices will have disappeared and it will be easier to write a constitution in keeping with the times in which we will be living. Think. Think. Think.

Senate Body Stalls Vote On Anti-Poll Tax Bill

Daily Worker

OCT 6 - 1942

(Daily Worker Washington Bureau)

OCT 6 - 1942

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5.—Two poll tax members on the Senate Judiciary Committee maneuvered today to delay for two more weeks action on the Pepper-Geyer Anti-Poll Tax Bill.

A subcommittee brought the bill to the full committee with a 3 to 1 vote against its "constitutionality." The vote represented a coalition between Senator Tom Connally of Texas, a poll taxer and two colleagues from non-poll tax states.

However, supporters of the bill believed that the vote could be reversed in full committee and were hoping for a showdown today. This was averted when Connally and Senator Wall Doxey of Mississippi moved that further hearings be held on Oct. 19 to hear additional testimony on the "constitutionality" of the bill from the Attorneys General of the eight poll tax states.

SEEK TO KILL BILL

These witnesses already have testified, and their recall merely is a delaying tactic. If a vote can be stalled in the Senate until the 77th Congress comes to its inglorious end with the new year, the fight will have to begin all over—even if the House version of the bill is passed.

OCT 6 - 1942

Senator Pepper, co-author of the bill, charged that the Judiciary Committee's postponement of action today will furnish "material for enemy propaganda."

Senator O'Mahoney, Wyoming Democrat sub-committee voted against the bill, and lived up to his reputation today of being able to appear publicly on both sides of controversial issues. He declared he was drafting a constitutional amendment which would abolish the poll tax. The amendment will be offered tomorrow, but it is nothing but a stall.

OCT 6 - 1942

Representative Cox of Georgia, an outstanding labor and Negro baiter, also proposes a constitutional amendment as a substitute for the Pepper-Geyer Bill. He knows it would be years before a sufficient number of states would ratify it.

Pepper bluntly asserted that O'Mahoney's proposal means nothing more than "further delay."

Meanwhile, the National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax is working hard to make certain that members of the House are in town next Monday when a vote is due there on the bill. The committee urges all supporters to get in touch with their Congressmen immediately.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Senator Pepper's Poll-Tax Bill

OCT 9 - 1942

In your editorial of October 6 on the poll tax you accept without question the statement of three members of a Senate subcommittee that to pass the Pepper Anti-Poll Tax Bill would involve "a clear violation of the Federal Constitution." To make this statement the committee had to ignore in toto the testimony of an impressive array of legal scholars and students of the Constitution.

Ten outstanding lawyers, including the deans of Wisconsin, Northwestern and North Carolina Law Schools and the professor of constitutional law of Yale University submitted a memorandum to the Senate committee sustaining the power of Congress to pass this bill. Two witnesses, Irving Brant, author of "Storm Over the Constitution," and James J. Morrison, professor of constitutional law at Tulane University, presented historical evidence to show the intent of the Founding Fathers to give to Congress the power to act to overrule abuse by the States of their right to set up the qualifications for voters. A number of other well-known lawyers submitted testimony in support of the right of Congress to act.

The historical fact is that the clause of the Constitution which related to the qualification of the electorate embodied one of the famous compromises of the Constitutional Convention, and that, as is often the case with compromises, its exact meaning is not wholly clear. Only the Supreme Court can give a final interpretation of the clause.

When a congressional committee has heard unrefuted testimony of the burning need of the reform proposed by a bill, when there is an important body of legal opinion which sustains the right of Congress to make that reform, it would seem to be a perversion of the democratic procedure for three members of a Senate subcommittee, only one of whom had actually been present at the hearings of the committee on the constitutional issue, to arrogate to themselves the right to determine an all-important question of the powers of the Federal Congress.

To say that the reform should be made by the States themselves or by constitutional amendment is also to ignore the testimony of the witnesses and the realities of the situation described by them. This testimony shows that because of the nature of the poll-tax requirement and its manipulation through the years by a dominant group, the disfranchised citizens of the poll-tax States are unable to vote on this issue. It cannot be left to the States in any real sense, but only to a small group, many of whom benefit by a restricted suffrage. Only Federal intervention can quickly restore to the majority of United States citizens in these States their constitutional right to participate in the election of representatives to the Federal Congress. A constitutional amendment, for the same reason would be blocked many months, or even years. In these critical days we cannot afford to be leisurely in our efforts to make democracy effective.

ELEANOR BONTECOU.
Washington, Oct. 6.

OCT 9 1942

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Asserts Bill Violation Of Constitution

SEP 29 1942

Act Creator Of Disunity, Says Mississippian

SEP 29 1942

WASHINGTON, D. C. — (ANP) —John Rankin couldn't sit idly by and learn that the 218 signatures necessary to bring the Geyer Anti-Poll Tax bill out of committee had been obtained. No indeed! So John got off a parable, "Negro Fiddles While Rome Burns." Said Johnny:

"Two hundred and eighteen members of the House, under the lash of certain communistic elements, have signed a petition to interfere with the election laws of southern states in flagrant violation of the constitution of the United States.

CITES DIFFERENCE

SEP 29 1942

"There is a difference, however; Nero never applied the torch himself, nor did he add fuel to the flames.

"The members who signed that petition are not only creating disunity but they are planting 'dynamite under the constitution which they swore to uphold and protect.

"This movement has been agitated by the Communists of this country for some time, aided and abetted by those Japanese fifth columnists that are now being exposed by the FBI.

SEES SECOND FRONT

SEP 29 1942

"They have now succeeded in establishing this 'second front' that is waging war against the white people of the southern states. It brings poor consolation to the white people of the south—whose brave boys are fighting and dying now on every battle front in the world — to know that members of the congress of the United States under the whip of these communistic elements, would perpetrate this outrage in these trying hours.

"Another thing that is very shocking and disappointing is that some of those signatures come from members from far western states when the south was the only friend they had against the Japanese peril when they were crying out for help. They have possibly commended this poisoned chalice to the lips of their own people, by helping to impose it upon us."

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

More On The Poll Tax

OCT 1 1 1942

There have been two eras of poll tax requirements for voting in American history. In the first era, following the War of the Revolution, the requirement was applied as a substitute for general property qualifications for voting and represented an intermediate step toward a wider manhood suffrage. The broadening of the suffrage was in accordance with the teachings of Benjamin Franklin, Samuel Adams, Tom Paine and Thomas Jefferson. By 1860, tax-paying qualifications existed only in Delaware, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Georgia.

In the second era, beginning about 1890, the poll tax requirements were resorted to again, in the South, distinctly as a modification and limitation of democratic suffrage. The South, after the middle of the seventies, had experienced widespread agrarian unrest from crop liens, farm mortgages, and a mounting tenancy in the face of tight money and low prices for farm products. There was a Granger movement, followed, in turn, by the Farmers' Alliance movement, the Populist movement, and the Bryan free-silver movement. The political power of railroad attorneys and conservative Bourbons was distinctly endangered. The "wool hat" boys were on the political war path. Something had to be done and done quickly to make the South safe for the supremacy of Bourbon democracy. Hence, the suffrage base was drastically reduced under the guise of maintaining "white supremacy" and taking the Negro out of politics.

OCT 1 1 1942

The post-Civil War poll tax requirement for voting was adopted by Florida in 1889, followed by Mississippi in 1890, Arkansas in 1892, South Carolina in 1895, Louisiana in 1898, North Carolina in 1900, Alabama and Virginia in 1901, Texas in 1903 and Georgia in 1908. It was written into the constitution of all these States except Florida, North Carolina, and Louisiana, where it has since been abolished. In Tennessee the constitution made it a permissory matter with the State Legislature, and there is some hope that this body can be induced to abolish it. But in the remaining States the poll tax suffrage requirement is a mandate in their constitutions, and amendments are necessary. There is practically no hope that such amendments will be adopted at any time in the near future.

OCT 1 1 1942

In Arkansas an attempt was made to amend the State Constitution in 1938 and the amendment was defeated—not because the vast majority of the potential voting population did not want to abolish the poll tax requirement for voting, but because only a small minority of the population could vote, and those were largely the Bourbons whose selfish interests were tied up with the maintenance of minority rule. To expect the disfranchised to vote themselves the franchise is like expecting the District of Columbia to give itself the power to elect members of Congress. The poll tax requirements for voting, embedded in the constitutions of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Missisippi, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia will continue to disfranchise millions of poor whites and Negroes for years to come unless Congress removes this bar to the franchise.

NATIVE OF A POLL TAX STATE.
Arlington, Oct. 7.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

THIS IS OUR WAR

OCT 17 1942

One of the greatest victories of this people's war for national liberation has almost been won.. Only another forward surge by the people and the Poll Tax as a system of disfranchisement can go down before the undemocratic forces of our country.

The fight against the Poll Tax system is years old. But this war has brought with it the possibilities for system's destruction. It stands in the way of the political mobilization of the masses for victory. There can be no all-out defense of democracy where some sections of the population are arbitrarily deprived of political expression.

OCT 17 1942

That vicious fight to secure an effective anti-inflation law might have been passed long ago if the millions of Negroes and poor whites had been able to send their true representatives to Congress. The Congressional spokesmen of the Southern landlords, who still live by the rule of slavery, have tried to hold up every measure that would mobilize our industry, our man-power, and our lands fully and completely. This power for evil must be ended.

The Geyer Anti Poll Tax Bill comes up before the House next week. You must be there. Every Negro in America should be there. Of course, physically, you cannot reach the galleries of the House of Representatives. But morally, spiritually, you can be on your Representative's desk.

Telegraph him, write a letter, telephone if you live near enough—but let him know that this bill MUST become a law.

OCT 17 1942

No deeper defeat can be dealt Hitler-ism than one that will loose America's victories. This is our war. We must battle from political bondage.

52e-1942
Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

DIXON SEES THREAT IN CONGRESS MOVE

AUG 29 1942

States Should Control Election Laws, Says Governor

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Aug. 28—(AP)—Gov. Frank M. Dixon declared Friday that "intrusion by Congress into state election laws means the ultimate control by the federal government of our local elections and should not be permitted."

AUG 29 1942

His view was expressed in telegrams to all Alabama senators and representatives in which he urged them to oppose pending legislation, already approved by the Senate, exempting members of the armed forces from poll tax payments while granting them absentee voting privileges.

"The question of poll tax exemptions," the telegrams said, "is one to be decided by the Legislature of Alabama and not by Congress. Intrusion by Congress into state election laws means the ultimate control by the federal government of our local elections and should not be permitted."

AUG 29 1942

"I earnestly request that every effort be used to stop the present attempt to invade state sovereignty in this regard. For the people of Alabama this issue is paramount."

Alabama is one of eight states which requires payment of a poll tax for the privilege of voting.

Bill Exempting Soldiers From Poll Tax Passes

SEP 10 1942

Southerners Routed In a Bitter Fight by House Vote of 247-53

PM's Bureau

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10.—Congress sent to the White House today legislation permitting soldiers to vote in primaries or elections without paying a poll tax or being present to cast their votes.

The bill, finally approved by the House yesterday, 247-53, after a bitter last-minute battle from poll-tax Congressmen, goes far toward shattering the undemocratic political system of the South. (*For progress report on the campaign to abolish the poll tax, see Page 8.*)

It is the first time Congress has asserted a right to interfere with the poll-tax system which keeps millions of Southern citizens from voting and vests political control in a small minority.

Rankin Routed

While this bill applies only to soldiers, Rep. John E. Rankin (D., Miss.), leader of the opposition, forecast that it would be followed by similar legislation applying to all citizens. A bill to abolish the poll tax is pending in both houses of Congress and in the House needs only a handful of signatures to bring it up for debate.

Rankin tried his best to stop the bill, but he didn't have a chance. With 300 members present for the showdown the Mississippian's parliamentary delaying tactics were futile. He was shouted down on a voice vote to send the bill back to conference and then voted down, 244-56, on a record vote. Final passage was just a formality.

But during the brief debate, Rankin repeated his charge that the bill was a Communistic attempt to abolish state governments, and warned that it would be followed by an attempt to abolish Congress.

"You are planting dynamite under the structure of this Government," Rankin shouted. With a dramatic cry, "God save this republic," he stalked, choking, into a cloakroom.

SEP 10 1942

Rep. Vito Marcantonio (ALP., N. Y.) followed Rankin with an assertion that the poll tax was undemocratic and was making for undemocratic representation in Congress.

The only Northern support for the poll-tax bloc came from reactionary Rep. Robert Rich (R., Pa.), who asserted that a $1 poll tax was not unjust. He also raised the same states-rights objection that the Southerners made, asserting that democracy was threatened by the invasion of the jurisdiction of the states.

SEP 10 1942

Negro Bias Cited

Rep. Everett Dirksen (R., Ill.) said it was an inequity to ask soldiers to fight for their country, but not let them vote for the Senators who will shape the peace. He said the bill presented an issue in which considerations of justice should prevail over "legalistic conceptions."

Rep. Sam Hobbs (D., Ala.) called the bill "illegal" and "dangerous." He read a letter from Secretary of War Stimson warning that the provision of the bill permitting soldiers abroad to vote "would impede military functions and might result in disclosing secret information."

This was denied by Rep. Stephen M. Young (D., O.), who said there was no reason for the mailed ballots to show where they came from, any more than other mail from men in the military service does. Young said the poll tax had been adopted by the Southern states to keep Negroes and poor whites from voting.

Rep. Robert L. Ramsey (D., W. Va.), author of the bill, said he did not have "any shadow of doubt about the constitutionality of the measure."

SEP 10 1942

Rep. Raymond S. McKeough (D., Ill.) wound up the debate with a declaration that the issue of states rights now being raised by the poll-tax Congressmen was not used to block the draft law which permitted the Government to go into the states and take men from their homes.

POLL TAX

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

VOTES FOR SOLDIERS AND SAILORS

SEP 11 1942

By a majority of 247 to 53, the house of representatives has passed the bill to enable the men and women in the armed forces to cast their ballots in the November election and in subsequent elections until the end of the war.

Included in the bill as it passed was Sen. Brooks' amendment directed against the poll tax. Thanks to this provision the soldiers can vote whether or not they have paid their poll taxes, and in consequence a great many Negroes—and with them many thousands of poor whites—recruited in the southern states will for the first time in their lives be allowed to participate as citizens in the choice of their representatives.

It is 72 years since the adoption of the 15th amendment declaring that the "right of the citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude" and granting the power to congress to enforce this rule with appropriate legislation. Only now has the intention been realized and even now those Negroes in many of the southern states who are not in the armed services are still debarred from the polls.

That injustice remains to be corrected, but meanwhile we may rejoice that men of all races who are now in uniform have been assured their franchise. There were a few men in congress, most of them Democrats from the south, who would have deprived all soldiers of the right to the ballot rather than let the colored men vote. THE TRIBUNE takes a good deal of satisfaction in the knowledge that its persistent advocacy contributed to the overwhelming support which the measure has received in congress.

SEP 11 1942

When Sen. Brooks forced a showdown in the senate on his poll tax amendment, those who are continually traducing him predicted that his action would result in the defeat of the bill in the house and, therefore, in denying to all soldiers and sailors the right to vote. Mr. Brooks evidently was better informed. The spokesmen for the Negroes and every one else who sincerely believed in the principles of representative government could only commend him for his stroke. **Once again the fears of the timid have been proved groundless; once again the lying propaganda of the hate brigade has been exposed.**

Time
Chicago, Illinois

Revolution from Above

Amid the hue & cry of Congressional debate, a political revolution of at least minor importance was about to be enacted this week. Ready for final passage was the soldiers' vote bill. And though Southern Senators might weep and States' rights theorists tear their hair, the bill suspended poll taxes for the duration of the war, as far as soldiers and sailors are concerned.

Already in the hopper was another bill, by Florida's stanch New Deal Senator Claude Pepper, to outlaw poll taxes altogether.

Poll taxes were originally a great forward-looking democratic experiment, a liberalization of laws giving the vote only to property owners. But after the Civil War, the Solid South turned them to a new purpose: keeping Negroes and white trash away from the polls.

SEP 14 1942

No man could be sure what effect this week's action by Congress might eventually have on Southern politics. By holding down the vote, the poll tax has made it easy for small machines (like Senator Harry Byrd's Virginia "courthouse crowd") to run an entire State. It has also helped preserve the South's one-party system, where final results are determined in the Democratic primary, not the general election.

SEP 14 1942

For soldiers and sailors, supposed to be beneficiaries of the vote bill, Congress actually did little. Almost two months of bickering by Congress have probably made it too late to set up the machinery this year. Most soldiers will not be able to use the ballot until 1944's Presidential

election—and by that time many may be too close to the enemy to think of voting.

Some of the long-winded Congressional debate was on the issue of State's rights. But mostly the fight was purely and simply over poll taxes, with conservative Southerners attacking. Mississippi's John E. ("Silent John") Rankin called the bill: "A monstrosity. . . . It is part of a long-range communistic program to change our form of government and our way of life." Cried Alabama's Sam Hobbs: "The worst thing since Reconstruction."

Soldiers' Vote Critics Rapped

P.M. N.Y.C.

Rep. Ramsey Says Their Cry of 'State's Rights' Is Phony Issue

PM's Bureau

WASHINGTON, Sept. 7.—Rep. Robert L. Ramsey (D., W. Va.) today challenged the widespread attack by Mark Sullivan, Tory columnist, and others on the constitutionality of his bill to let soldiers vote without paying poll tax. SEP 7 - 1942

He fears that the propaganda campaign against the bill might affect the vote in the House Wednesday, when the bill comes up for final approval. Defending the constitutionality of the bill and assailing its opponents, Ramsey told PM:

"I believe the people are pretty used to the objection that every new law that grants rights to the people is unconstitutional. I think Mr. Sullivan, for the past 10 years, has declared every act of Roosevelt legislation unconstitutional. SEP 7 - 1942

"He has always built up a straw man and then proceeded to knock him down. Unfortunately for him, the Supreme Court never has been able to see his straw man. I think his batting record must be about one thousandth of one per cent on his guesses of what is constitutional and what is not."

State Rights

Ramsey readily conceded that the Constitution gives the states the right to determine the qualifications of voters, but he distinguished between the right to determine qualifications and the right to regulate and supervise elections, which the Constitution clearly vested in Congress.

"For some reason or another, knowingly or unknowingly," the Congressman said, "those who oppose the Soldier Vote Bill do so on the 'sacred cow' of state's rights idea.

"The truth is, the states have no rights relative to the control of elections for Presidential electors, Vice President, Senators and Congressmen other than what is named and set forth in the Constitution.

"We must remember that there were no Congressmen, no Senators and there were no Presidential electors prior to the signing of the Constitution. Therefore, the 13 original colonies never had any rights pertaining to the election of such officers. These are Federal officers, and all law pertaining to their election or appointment was of course in the Federal Government, and the states only have such right relative to them as is granted by the Constitution. So the 'sacred cow' of state's rights does not enter into this question." SEP 7 - 1942

Fixing Qualifications

Ramsey said the rights of the states were limited to "qualifications that are really and truly qualifications," and added:

"It has never been admitted that Mark Sullivan, Sen. George and Rep. Rankin can designate every election restriction and requirement as a qualification."

Ramsey said the poll tax was not a qualification but a restriction. He argued that a qualification must apply to all alike.

"The same Constitution which provides for the qualifications of voters also provides that the times, places and manner of holding elections for President, Vice President, Representatives and Senators finally rests in the hands of the Congress," Ramsey said. "Registration and poll-tax cannot by the widest stretch of the imagination be placed under the definition of qualification."

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

The South Is In The Ditch

AUG 30 1942

THE recent attempt to enact legislation to permit men in the armed forces to vote in the forthcoming elections was met with a savage attempt by the southern senators from the eight poll tax states—Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, Texas, Tennessee, South Carolina, and Virgnia—to block it on the ground that Negroes would be able to vote. Whatever merits the bill had were nullified, in their minds, by the fact that a few colored soldiers, fighting that democracy may survive, will have an opportunity to vote.

In a sense the action of that group of senators was not singular. The reason behind their action this week has been invoked many times in the past. They are willing to prevent legislation if it appears that colored people in the South are going to benefit from it. This is true despite the fact that white people in the South and the nation as a whole will benefit from it.

AUG 30 1942

The South has stuck religiously to the Democratic party because the political leaders think that colored people may benefit if the two-party system obtains in that section of the country.

In some elections as many as eight per cent of the voters elect their so-called representatives. A higher percentage of votes is discouraged because of the fear that if a larger proportion votes a few colored ballots may slip in.

The South has traditionally held itself back in order to keep the colored man in the ditch. unfortunately, however, it is holding down the progress of the entire nation.

In any discussion of the evils of the South there always arise the question as to what may be done to save the South from suicide by a self-inflated white supremacy superimposed by a psychosis of racial superiority.

If and when the poll tax law and its attending evils coupled with other restrictions against colored people exercising their right of suffrage are removed from theory and practice, the South may in fact be called a part of this democracy. AUG 30 1942

The abolition of the poll tax laws will permit 10,000,000 people to choose their representatives. Of this number some 6,000,000 are white people who are too poor to pay from a dollar to a dollar and a half a year for the purpose of voting. Let the Negroes and poor whites begin to exercise their right of suffrage and the heads of the Bilbos and Talmadges will fall like little wooden soldiers and their places will be taken by representatives who respect the views and welfare of their constituency.

Needless to say, the first act should be the removal of the laws of the poll taxes from the books and the passage of the Anti-poll tax bill now pending in the Congress will go a long way toward that end.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Woman Solon Moves Against Intolerance

SEP 26 1942

Wants Full Citizenship For Everyone

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—The opportunity to vote upon the Pepper-Geyer anti-poll tax bill draws nearer and dearer as one more and then another congressman signs the petition to discharge the bill which has been held up in committee.

LATEST SIGNER

The latest to sign the petition is Congresswoman Frances P. Bolden, noted philantropist and friend of the race from Cleveland.

Mrs Bolden, who has always refrained from signing petitions for withdrawal, broke her rule for the first time because she felt that injustices were being perpetrated upon colored persons and poor white groups in the south.

She made a brief speech and among things said:

POLL TAX STAND

"I want to register my attitude upon the poll tax stand. I trust we shall show that intolerance in this country is something we will no longer permit, that we will move toward a true democracy.

"I trust we will register ourselves as wanting to give full citizenship to everyone, that our boys, all our boys, whether in this or some other country, will have the opportunity of expressing their preferences and judgment in all matters pertaining to their government. SEP 26 1942

Mrs. Bolton has been a staunch friend of race measures in the hall of Congress whenever she has felt them sound and has supported measures which were liberal regardless of their effect upon people of any particular group.

House Will Approve Bill to Ban Poll Tax

Test Votes Show Passage Is Certain

By NATHAN ROBERTSON
(Mrs Bureau)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 13.—The Geyer bill to abolish the poll tax in Federal elections was heading for certain approval in the House today, after two test votes yesterday showed the House overwhelmingly in favor of the measure.

Poll-tax Congressmen used all the parliamentary devices available to them to block action, but the House, by a vote of 250 to 85, took the bill away from the Judiciary Committee, where it has been buried for almost two years, then by a vote of 240 to 83 adopted a rule for its consideration today.

The two votes were so decisive that they not only foreshadowed House approval of the bill, but they also put the heat on Senators who are trying to block action on the measure at the other end of the Capitol.

Only six Northerners voted against the bill in the House. All extreme reactionaries, they were: Robert F. Rich (R., Pa.); Charles I. Faddis (D., Pa.); Daniel Reed (R., N. Y.); Harry B. Coffee (D., Neb.); Guy L. Moser (D., Pa.); and George A. Paddock (R., Ill.). It is significant that most of these men already have been beaten for re-election or are not running.

Even many of the Southerners in the House voted for the bill, and the fight for it is being led by one of them—young Estes Kefauver (D., Tenn.). Opposition was led by old reactionary poll-tax Congressmen like Gene Cox (D., Ga.); Howard Smith (D., Va.); Sam Hobbs (D., Ala.); and John Rankin (D., Miss.).

The poll taxers know they are beaten in the House, but they are expected to delay the final verdict as long as possible. They may be able to hold it off for a day or two, but the House rules do not permit prolonged filibusters.

Speaker Sam Rayburn (D., Tex.), a poll-tax Congressman himself, was instrumental in the victory for democracy in the House yesterday. He overruled a series of points of order made by his fellow poll-tax Congressmen, designed to block the will of the majority.

Most serious of these parliamentary threats was a point of order by Rep. Hobbs that the rule for debate on the bill provided

Charlotte, N. C., News
October 15, 1942

Free Elections

Democrats and Republicans Fall Over Themselves

In one way of looking at it, the anti-poll tax bill passed by the House is another "force" bill, designed to abase the South. In another view, it could be called simple democracy.

Only eight states still require the payment of poll taxes as a condition for voting — Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Arkansas, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi. In the last four states named the Negro population runs from a third to a half (in Ole Miss). But in Tennessee and Texas, which still retain the poll tax requirement, the percentage of Negro population is far lower than in many another Southern state which has no such provision and evidently is getting along without race trouble at the polls.

The House bill would have the effect of outlawing the poll tax requirement in both primaries and elections but only in voting upon candidates for Federal office. Hence the eight states would be making a more limited experiment in free elections than their neighbors have already made without any compulsion and without any of the awful effects which Southern Congressmen predicted in arguing against the bill.

We think it goes without saying that the Democrats in Congress, enthusiastically assisted by the Republicans, were making a play for the Negro vote. We think it goes without saying that the South (which is funny that way) might better have been left with its eight poll-tax states than thus offended by Federal intervention.

But if no great furore is raised in those states, if men of good will prevail instead of extremists in both races, the difference in the next election is not likely to be noticeable. If it should turn out that way, we wonder if Congress and the Democratic Party would be disappointed.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
October 17, 1942

THE POLL TAX VOTE

Six Tennessee Congressmen voted for the Geyer bill to abolish poll taxes in federal elections. Three voted against it. The six who voted affirmatively were Representatives Estes Kefauver (leader in the fight for the bill), J. Percy Priest, Wirt Courtney, Albert Gore, John Jennings and B. Carroll Reece. Those voting against were Representatives Herron Pearson, Jere Cooper, Cliff Davis.

The Middle and East Tennessee congressmen were in favor of the bill. The three congressmen from West Tennessee were against it. This geographical division has some significance.

Mr. Cliff Davis, of Memphis, owes his elevation to Congress to Mr. Ed Crump. Tennessee might fear for promised repeal of its own State poll tax law in the forthcoming January legislature if it were thought that Mr. Crump dictated to Mr. Davis his position on the Geyer bill. But maybe he did not. Mr. Davis was first elected to important public office in Memphis when he ran on a Ku-Klux Klan ticket, aimed at the Memphis *Commercial Appeal*, which had won the Pulitzer Gold Medal for fighting the Klan. Imported Klan orators pointed to Cliff Davis, who usually sat on the platform, as Exhibit A in their campaign. So far as is known, Mr. Davis has never recanted his Klan allegiance, and when Negro organizations favored the Geyer bill, Mr. Davis probably made up his mind—Mr. Crump or no Mr. Crump.

Mr. Pearson and Mr. Cooper, other West Tennessee congressmen who opposed the Geyer bill, likewise probably had the so-called "Negro question" in mind. Both are a high type of manhood. The Negro population in their districts is heavy. They overlook the fact that thousands of poor white people in their districts are disfranchised by poll tax laws, that Louisiana, North Carolina, Florida, Kentucky, which also have heavy Negro populations, have no poll tax laws, and have not had racial troubles because of that fact.

Charleston, S. C., News & Courie
October 22, 1942

Rebellious Expression

This expression from The Orangeburg Times and Democrat is, as far as it goes, a declaration of political war against the New Deal and the White House:

"The overwhelming vote by which the house of representatives passed the measure outlawing the poll tax as a prerequisite for voting in federal elections is a symptom of a disease that may yet wreck the federal union. If there was any sincerity in the views of those who needle the Southern white people, they would do something for the negro in Northern and Western states. They might even organize societies to encourage the immigration of Southern negroes into their own communities."

That the Orangeburg newspaper is wholly right in what it says is beyond question—and the tie-up of the Southerners with the New Dealers for the pittances they have received is the cause of the dangers that threaten them.

The opinion is general, and is not unnatural, in the congress, in all branches of the federal government, as well as in the Northern cities where the votes that elect the government are congregated, that, Oh well, we have got the South bought and we can keep it bought.

Bishopville, S. C., Messenger
October 22, 1942

CONSTITUTIONAL

Now do not put us down as saying the thing is constitutional for without knowing legally whether it is or not, we believe it is not constitutional. Well it is about time we were telling what we are talking about. So it is about the proposed repealing of the poll tax laws some of the Southern States have for voting.

The proposed repeal is more than in keeping with the Constitution, for anyone knows that the matter has been put before Congress in order to get a good slap at the South that insists on being real Democratic and a democratic country. The politicians almost entirely of the North along with a big element in the Real Democratic Party and most of the democrats not really true bloods want to kick the South in the pants and the poll tax matter fits in nicely because it concerns the Negro, the Republicans used to be after and the Democratics (?) are now trying to ate happens to pass it and the pres- hook. ident signs it no matter what the

Well it has been stated, mainly Constitution says. from the South that the measure the House has passed and the Senate is to tackle is unconstitutional, but what matters that, the old Constitution has been dethroned from its rightful place as the country's protection, to the football for politicians. It may not be constitutional but if the Sen-

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

Poll Tax Debate

Sharp as were the differences between Senator Claude Pepper, of Florida, and Representative Edward Eugene Cox, of Georgia, in their Town Meeting of the Air debate on the poll tax Thursday night, it was rather oddly possible for us to be in general accord with both of the basic principles which, respectively, seemed to concern the speakers most.

OCT 24 1942

Senator Pepper believes that making payment of a poll tax a prerequisite to voting is in conflict with the basic principles of our democratic government. He thinks that it is well for the states to fix the qualifications for suffrage in state and local elections, but he is positive that Congress certainly has the authority to determine these qualifications in federal elections and that, in regulating these latter elections, should forbid any state requirement that the payment of money be essential to participation in the balloting.

We are in general accord with that view, especially when the poll tax is cumulative, as in Alabama, and can become a real barrier to suffrage.

On the other hand, we are, in a broad sense, in accord with Mr. Cox in holding that it is better for the states to fix the qualifications of voters and that elimination of the poll tax by congressional action would not establish a desirable precedent.

We consider that poll tax reform would much better come by state action. And we hope that at the forthcoming session of the Alabama Legislature there will be such reform. But we do not at all go along with Mr. Cox in his sweeping insistence that action by Congress affecting federal elections would be unconstitutional, nor do we share his acute alarm over the prospect of such action.

OCT 24 1942

The Georgia representative seemed to think that the states have unlimited control over the rights of suffrage. Evidently he believes that even if the states fixed an extreme property ownership qualification for voting, the federal government would not have any power to intervene. As we declared a few days ago, this seems to us a wholly unsound conception of our fundamental principles of government.

Our federal constitution is the basic charter of our rights as citizens. The whole spirit and conception of the constitution, as well as specific provisions of it, seem to us to make it beyond question that the federal government has basic control over suffrage. If that were not so, we do not see how there could be any assurance of a strong, unified government, with citizens guaranteed in their fundamental rights and on an equal level.

It is wise, we think, for the federal government to leave the fixing of voting qualifications very largely to states, but surely state action in this connection should be within general limits under control of the federal government.

OCT 24 1942

It would be better, we repeat, for the states which still require payment of the poll tax as a prerequisite to voting to make their own changes in this respect, but it does not follow that Congress has no power to prescribe the regulations governing election of congressmen.

Mr. Cox, at one point in what was at times a confused and confusing discussion, seemed to be ready to grant that Congress had the right to set out such "regulations," but even so insisted that it had no right to fix the "qualifications" for voting. We did not get the exact distinction, but it seemed abundantly clear to us that Mr. Cox has great fears that the right of suffrage may become too broad. He wanted to know how far advocates of poll tax abolition would go in clearing the way for suffrage. He believes that the integrity of the ballot requires some very strict limitations on its use.

Senator Pepper, in contrast, makes just the opposite emphasis, believing in broadly free exercise of the right, holding that to be in keeping with the democratic principle for which the nation now is fighting.

Of course, Senator Pepper would concede that there should be some qualifications for voting, but he desires to make the ballot a fundamental right, broadly exercised, while Mr. Cox seems to think of suffrage more as a privilege, to be very closely guarded and extensively restricted.

OCT 24 1942

The Georgian insisted that the movement to abolish the poll tax in Congress is entirely political, intended simply to gain the favor of Negroes, rather than motivated by the fundamental philosophy and spirit voiced by Senator Pepper. But the senator himself, coming from a Southern state, would seem to be an example against this argument.

Mr. Cox asserted that abolition of the poll tax would not make it possible for more Negroes to vote and while it is obviously true that the poll tax is not the only barrier to Negro suffrage in the South, still Senator Pepper effectively brought out that there had been great increases in the number of citizens voting in Louisiana and Florida since the poll tax was eliminated as a suffrage qualification in those states.

OCT 24 1942

On the whole, Senator Pepper's position seemed to us to be much more in accord with the general spirit of the constitution. His interpretation of questions of constitutional authority appeared to be much sounder, much broader.

Mr. Cox struck us as unnecessarily alarmed and very narrow in his conception of the constitutional foundations of the nation and of suffrage. Even so, we agree with him to the extent that we believe it would be unfortunate for Congress to impose any changes in the qualifications for the vote which would obviously be better made by state action.

OCT 24 1942

The way out of the dilemma presented by the clear need for poll tax reform and the possibility of federal action to that end is for the states themselves to act promptly in that direction.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
October 23, 1942

Warring Against the South

An unusually large vote polled in the election in South Carolina, on Tuesday after the first Monday in November, would strengthen the argument of Southern congressmen against repeal of the poll tax as a requirement for voting.

It therefore behooves qualified electors of South Carolina to go to the polls and vote.

April 1, 1940, the number of persons of voting age in South Carolina was approximately 989,000, of whom 384,000 were negroes. The negro females, exempt from poll tax payment, were 202,000. Of 181,640 negro males twenty-one years old or older, it is a fair guess that 75,000 pay poll taxes. Not more than 2,000 of them have voted in general elections in recent years.

The payment of poll taxes does not qualify men as electors, however the Northern agitators for the repeal of the poll tax requirement seem to think that it does. Few of the negroes take the trouble to obtain registration certificates.

It is likely that the Northern agitators will advise the qualified negro electors to absent themselves from the polls this year. They would have South Carolina's vote to be as small as possible—with the aim of providing their haranguers and writers with argumentative provender for poll tax repeal.

Relatively few of the registered white electors vote. The largest vote in a general election in recent years has been about 115,000, and, as a rule, it is around 100,000. Tens of thousands of white people do not vote, however they be fully qualified by registration and poll tax payment, for the simple reason that there is no opposition party. The contention that the poll tax requirement prevents the organization and activity of another party is sheer nonsense and fustian, and if the beseechers and demanders for poll tax repeal do not know this they are incredibly ignorant, so far as South Carolina is considered. If they do know it, they belong to a class which The News and Courier declines to describe in the only appropriate words of its vocabulary.

The qualified white Democrats, by going to the polls and voting, would fortify the convincing statement of the truth that Governor Jefferies has placed before a committee of congress.

The movement to repeal the poll tax as a voting requirement is in itself of small importance. It is, however, a part of the war the New Dealers are waging against the constitution of the American states while warring at the same time against the Axis powers.

It is a movement, whether so designed or not, to impress Southern white men and women that their government in Washington is hostile to them.

Therefore it extends aid and comfort to Adolf Hitler.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
October 25, 1942

Ignorance or Suppression?

Of the astounding aspects of the agitation by the Northern liberalites and democrats for repeal of the poll tax qualification for voting is their ignorance of the facts in the case—or, if it be not ignorance, it is wilful suppression of facts. For instance, they never refer to the registration laws and their administrators in South Carolina. They do not know that of 75,000 negroes who pay poll taxes relatively few apply for registration certificates. In legal proceedings, in a case from Brekeley county, is the recorded fact that four or five years ago in that county was but one negro qualified elector, yet hundreds of negroes in that county pay poll taxes year after year. In the county's population, the negroes are a large majority.

"Daily World" 52-e 1942 Atlanta, Ga.

POLL TAX

Alabama's Governor Dixon Mobilizes Forces To Fight Anti-Poll Tax Bill

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—(ANP)—Gov. Frank M. Dixon was canvassing members of the Alabama congressional delegation and the governors of their southern states this week to resist every effort of congress to pass a bill that would proscribe the poll tax as a vote requirement in federal elections.

Abolition of the poll tax would mean that thousands of Negro citizens now denied their suffrage rights through tax payments would be able to cast ballots for the first time in the their lives.

Dixon wired senators and representatives from Alabama the following:

"I sincerely urge your untiring opposition to the present attempt to alter the qualification of voters in this state by the abolition of the poll tax.

"This is no time to engender disunity by continuous demands for social reforms having nothing on earth to do with the war. Neither is it the time to strike down local control of elections and to substitute federal control therefor.

OCT 1 2 1942

DISASTER SEEN

"If the congress has the right to eliminate this qualification it has the right to eliminate any other qualification and the end result of this policy will be disaster to our federal-state relationship and ultimate disaster to democracy itself."

The governors of Texas, Alabama, Mississippi, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Virginia, and Arkansas, all of which require payment of the poll tax as a voting privilege, were wired.

OCT 1 2 1942

"Sincerely urged that you communicate with members of your congressional delegation and express opposition to the present attempt to eliminate our poll tax requirement by congressional action.

"If the federal government can control this qualification for voting, it can control any other qualification and the control of our local elections will soon be in federal hands.

"Under no conceivable circumstances could this attempt have anything to do with the war effort. It is simply a further evidence of the continued refusal of so called social reformers to cease their efforts during the time of greatest national emergency in our history.

"And this effort at this time should receive the condemnation of all patriotic citizens."

Poll Tax Bloc Plans Tactics

P. M. Daily

OCT 30 1942

Southern Senators Will Argue Pepper Bill Is an Untimely Reform Measure

N.Y. N.Y.

PM's Bureau

WASHINGTON, Oct. 30.—The Senate battle over the Pepper-Geyer bill to abolish the poll tax in Federal elections has settled down largely to an issue between the 16 Senators from poll-tax states and the rest of the Chamber.

OCT 30 1942

The minority report from the Judiciary Committee on the bill yesterday was signed by only one Senator—Warren R. Austin (R., Vt.)—in addition to the two Committee members from poll tax States—Tom Connally, of Texas, and Wall Doxey, of Mississippi. It was submitted by Doxey.

The report indicated that, aside from the constitutional argument, the Southern Senators would chiefly rely on the argument that the poll-tax bill is a reform measure that should not be considered in time of war.

The minority argued that "the present emergency is not a proper time for the submission of controversial matters." It said the bill was "an attempt to accomplish an alleged reform by national action at a time when the whole attention and energy of the whole people should be devoted to the war effort and their attention not distracted by an issue such as this."

Friends of the legislation have been arguing that it is a definite aid to the prosecution of the war, not only because it would improve morale among the 13,000,000 Negro citizens of the U. S. A., but also because it would encourage colored races abroad to feel that America was in earnest about democracy.

OCT 30 1942

On the constitutional issue, the Judiciary Committee minority stated merely that the bill would "not be a constitutional exercise of the national legislative power" and then reprinted the subcommittee report submitted by Sen. Joseph C. O'Mahoney (D., Wyo.).

Meanwhile, the issue involved in the poll-tax question was stressed indirectly in a joint statement by Secretary Stimson, Secretary Knox and Chairman Donald M. Nelson, of the War Production Board, directing war contractors to let workers vote.

While they made no reference to the 10,000,000 Southern citizens disfranchised by the poll tax, the war production officials said:

OCT 30 1942

"The right to vote is one of those great rights of free men for which this war is being fought. To exercise that right is the solemn duty of all American citizens—now, in the midst of this great emergency, more than ever before."

Because of the importance of voting, Stimson, Knox and Nelson said war contractors should give workers two hours off to vote in cases where it was not possible for them to vote during off-hours.

"This will be one of the very rare exceptions to the general rule that nothing must be allowed to take workers out of war factories," they said.

GOP to Back Poll Reform

P. M. Daily

N.Y. N.Y.

Sen. McNary, Republican Whip, Says His Forces Oppose Tax on Vote

OCT 2 3 1942

PM's Bureau

WASHINGTON, Oct. 23.—Strong Republican support for the anti-poll tax bill in the Senate was assured today when Sen. Charles L. McNary of Oregon, Republican leader, announced he was for the bill and forecast that his side of the Chamber would vote almost as a unit for it.

Nearly a third of the Senators are Republicans, and their votes can cancel the votes against the bill from the Solid South. McNary's statement leaves the decision in the Senate up to the Democrats from the North and the West.

McNary said he intended to urge Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee, which is scheduled to face a showdown on the bill next Monday, to give their support to the measure. One of them, Sen. Warren R. Austin, of Vermont, already is committed against the bill, but the others are expected to follow McNary's leadership.

If they do, it will give the bill at least a 2-to-1 margin in the Committee, as eight other members already are committed in favor of the measure.

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The only problem in the committee now is that of forcing the bill to a vote. Two sessions already have been spent discussing the measure. On Monday a third session will deal with it. Sen. George W. Norris (Ind., Neb.) hopes to get a vote at that time, but it will depend on whether a majority of those present are willing to support him.

Norris has moved to report out, without change, the Geyer bill as it passed the House, so that if the Senate approves the measure it will go right to the White House without further action by the House. Approval of this motion both in committee and in the Senate is assured if the two groups can be made to vote.

The strategy of the bill's opponents is to stall in the hope of preventing a vote until the end of this Congress, so the bill would die.

Poll Tax Showdown Vote Nears

OCT 5 - 1942 OCT 5 - 1942

More than 90 Congressmen have already advised the National Negro Congress that they will be in Washington on Oct. 12, when the Geyer anti-poll tax bill comes up for a vote, it was learned yesterday.

The Negro Congress called upon all its councils to muster all-out interest and support for the passage of the bill which will help bring the vote to 10,000,000 Southern Negroes and whites.

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"The time is short," declared a Congress statement" but the bill can be passed if every individual, organization and trade union works effectively between now and Oct. 12, by writing or telephoning their Congressman in Washington on that date to vote for the bill.

A vote for the Geyer Bill is a vote for winning the war, Congress officials said.

The bill will be brought tot he floor on Oct. 12 as a result of obtaining 218 House member signatures. It has been bottled up in the House Judiciary Committee for over a year.

Citizens of the following states can help make the bill the law of the land of they see that their Representatives vote for it.

Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Illinois, Ohio and Michigan OCT 5 - 1942

PRESSURE ON SENATE

The Pepper anti-poll tax bill still has a chance in the Senate if trade unions and other win-the-war organizations immediately inform the Senate Judiciary Committee that passage of the bill will help defeat the Axis.

Action on the bill is imperative because last week the sub-committee of the Senate Judiciary Committee struck a blow against the war by voting 3 to 1 against the bill on the basis of "constitutionality."

The committee is expected to re-report unvarobaly on the Pepper bill this week.

Wires, letters, petitions, delegations and personal calls must flood members of the Senate Judiciary Committee now.

Democratic Senators are: Van Nuys of Indiana, chairman; McCarran of Nevada; Hatch of New Mexico; Connally of Texas; O'Mahoney of Wyoming; Hughes of Delaware; Chandler of Kentucky; Smathers of New Jersey; Kilgore of West Virginia; Murdock of Utah; McFarland of Arizona; Doxey of Mississippi. OCT 5 - 1942

Republican Senators are: Norris of Nebraska; Austin of Vermont; Danaher of Connecticut; Wiley of Wisconsin; Langer of North Dakota; Burton of Ohio.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

May Revise Language Of Anti-Poll Tax Measure

WASHINGTON.—ANP) — After the senate judiciary committee voted last Monday to postpone action on the Pepper anti-poll tax bill, Danaher, Republican of Connecticut, set about working on a revision of the language of the measure.

Sen. Doxey of Mississippi emerged from the committee session and said, "I'm fighting this bill with everything I've got. Anything I can do to defeat it or delay action on it will be done."

When the postponement was voted there was a pending motion before the committee by Sen. Norris of Nebraska to substitute the bill which passed the house last week, for the senate measure.

Senator Norris said he hoped an argument on the house language would prevent sending the matter to a conference committee. He told reporters he wouldn't say there was evidence of a filibuster" in the committee, but added that there were some who appeared desirious of a delay. OCT 26 1942

"There'll be extended debate when the bill reached the floor" Sen. Van Nays, chairman of the committee, said, "but I do not believe there will be an all-out filibuster."

The chairman refused to believe there had been any evidence of attempts to delay the bill while discussions were under way in the committee room. OCT 26 1942

The preamble of the bill as it now stands leads Sen. Danaher to believe it harmful to the passage of the measure. Therefore, he plans to rewrite this preamble to make it less effensive, yet at the same time retain the strength.

Sen. Norris Submits Majority Report Terming Tax on Vote Illegal

PM's Bureau OCT 27 1942

WASHINGTON, Oct. 27.—Sen. George W. Norris, leading another reform battle at 81 years of age, submitted a report to the Senate today which rapped the poll tax as an illegal means of "depriving thousands of citizens of the privilege of participating in governmental affairs by denying them a fundamental right—the right to vote."

The report, submitted by the Nebraska Independent on behalf of the Senate Judiciary Committee, upheld the constitutionality of the bill to abolish the poll tax.

Citing the section of the Constitution which says "the United States shall guarantee to every State in this union a Republican form of government," Norris asked:

"Can we have a Republican form of government in any state if, within that state, a large portion, and perhaps a majority, of the citizens residing therein are denied the right to participate in governmental affairs because they are poor?"

Court Decision Cited

A decision by Chief Justice Stone last year was cited by Norris to refute the contention of the bill's opponents that the states have unlimited authority to fix qualifications for voters. Stone held that states had a right to legislate on the subject only "to the extent that Congress has not restricted state action."

Norris said the states had abused this supposed right "by setting up a pretended 'qualification' that in fact has nothing whatever to do with the real qualification of the voter." OCT 27 1942

Norris added that if the states had the power to tax voting they had "the power to destroy the Federal Government," because if they had the right to levy a small poll tax they had the right to levy a tax of $10, $50, or $100.

Discrimination Intended

The Norris report said that study of the proceedings of the constitutional conventions which adopted the poll tax restrictions would convince any disinterested person that the conventions "were moved entirely and exclusively by a desire to exclude the Negro from voting."

"They attempted to do this in a constitutional way," he added, "but, in order to follow such course, they deemed it necessary even to prohibit the white voter the same as they did the colored voter."

As evidence, Norris quoted from the proceedings of a Virginia constitutional convention in which Sen. Carter Glass declared:

"We were sent here to make distinctions. We expect to make distinctions. We will make distinctions."

Norris added: OCT 27 1942

"One of the greatest privileges, and a fundamental one, of every citizen of the United States is the right to vote. If he is deprived of this right, he is denied the right to participate in governmental affairs. Such citizen becomes an outcast. He is subject to all the laws of the state. His citizenship is admitted and the burdens which rest upon him are the same as rest upon all other citizens. He can be drafted into the Army and be compelled to face the foe and give up his life to protect the lives of his fellow citizens.

"Yet he is deprived of the most sacred privilege of all—the right to vote."

52e-1942

POLL TAX

Maneuver Planned to Outsmart Poll-Tax Bloc

But Public Opinion Is the Real Force to Be Heard From

P.M. Daily

N.Y. N.Y.

PM's Bureau

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16.—Senate leaders hoped today by means of a secret parliamentary maneuver to outsmart Southern filibusterers and force a showdown on taking up the Pepper-Geyer anti-poll tax bill.

Attempts to get the bill up for debate last week were blocked by the stubborn filibuster of the Southerners which led to the arrest of three of them who were hiding out to keep the Senate from functioning.

But over the week-end, Democratic Leader Alben Barkley sent word to all missing Senators to be on hand today. While he wouldnt disclose his strategy in advance, Barkley was understood to have worked out a plan for forcing a vote on his motion to consider the bill.

If Barkley is successful in this maneuver, he will get the bill over its first hurdle and before the Senate. That will be an important victory, because the bill will then have precedence over most other legislation and will be before the Senate until it is disposed of in one way or another, or until Congress adjourns.

Minority Rule

But it will not break the filibuster by a long ways. A determined bloc of Southerners, believed to number from 14 to 20, is prepared to talk indefinitely to prevent the Senate from reaching a final vote on the bill.

NOV. 16, 1942

So far they have succeeded in preventing the other 70 to 80 Senators from even taking up the bill for debate. They can lose this battle and still fight to keep the measure from reaching a final vote.

This week may tell the story of whether they can get away with this defiance of majority rule. If the Senate majority shows that it means business and will not tolerate such obstruction, it can crush the rebellion of the minority and force action.

Friends of the legislation are counting on the public reaction to help them force a vote. They believe the open filibuster by the Southern minority will bring a strong show of public resentment and possibly force the poll tax Senators to abandon their dilatory tactics.

Public Reaction Helps

And if the public reaction is strong enough, those in charge of the legislation believe it may be possible to break the filibuster by invoking the rarely used cloture rule to shutdown debate. This is the only way Senate debate can be shutoff, but it takes a two-thirds vote and many Senators are opposed to the rule on principle.

But the flagrant tactics of the filibusterers already has stirred up resentment within the Senate itself. Senators realize that the chamber doesn't look like "the greatest deliberative body in the world," when members are sitting around telling jokes while waiting for sergeants-at-arms to arrest missing Senators.

While this procedure was going on Saturday discussion of the cloture rule sprang up among the majority Senators, and even some of those who have always refused in the past to shutoff debate by use of the cloture rule, indicated that if such tactics continued they might be willing to vote for it this time.

If Barkley succeeds today in getting the bill before the Senate. and the filibuster then continues on the measure, it will clear the way for use of the cloture rule from a parliamentary standpoint.

Without the use of the cloture rule, the filibuster battle is just an endurance contest. Senators opposed to action on the bill will continue to talk as long as they can. Senate rules permit them to do so. They don't even have to talk about the bill. They can discuss anything, but so long as they can continue to stand and talk, the Senate cannot act.

The majority can win such an endurance contest only by outlasting the minority. It must maintain a quorum on hand at all times, or the filibusterers can do what they did Saturday and suspend the session by demanding the call of a quorum.

This means that at least 49 Senators must be kept in attendance, or close at hand, throughout the filibuster, even though there it nothing for them to do but sit and be counted when necessary.

The fact that the filibuster is out in the open, as it is this time, instead of being a concealed filibuster which is hard to attack, makes it a little easier to handle. The public is fully aware that a small group of Senators is trying to prevent the overwhelming majority from acting.

Willkie to Norris

Wendell Willkie said today he had wired U. S. Senator George W. Norris his best wishes for Norris' fight for the anti-poll tax bill and that he planned to make a more extensive statement on the fight in the Senate in a few days.

The anti-poll tax fight is the final round in a long battle by Norris for the rights of the common man. The veteran Nebraska Independent retires with the end of this session of Congress.

AN EDITORIAL

Filibuster for Hitler

Hitler and his Axis allies must be getting comfort today out of the filibuster in the Senate against the bill to let American citizens vote for Federal officials without paying a poll tax.

What a propaganda weapon this is for Hitler! The Senate of the United States, the home of democracy, unable to function because a small minority doesn't like what the majority wants to do. And this in the midst of a great war for survival of democracy.

Hitler's propagandists won't miss the fact that the filibuster is against a proposal to extend the democracy for which we say we are fighting. Nor will they miss the fact that the opposition comes from those who don't want Negroes and poor people to have their rights as democratic citizens.

This won't help the cause of the United Nations among the millions of colored people and underprivileged people all over the world whose support we are trying to enlist.

Senate Majority Leader Alben Barkley, of Kentucky, has shown courage in his leadership of the fight for the bill in defiance of his colleagues from the poll tax States. He can prevent a moral defeat for the United Nations and turn it into a victory by breaking the filibuster and showing the world that American talk about democracy means something.

—NATHAN ROBERTSON.

Profile of a Man Who Plans To Keep Talking for a Month

By HAROLD LAVINE

The U. S. Senate, which consists of 96 statesmen, they say, may spend the next 30 days listening to statesman Theodore Gilmore Bilbo declaim on the virtues of Theodore Gilmore Bilbo, who calls himself The Man and very likely is.

Naturally, Hitler and Hirohito are expected to recess the war meanwhile.

The Man says he really wants to discuss the anti-poll tax bill in all its ramifications; however, the only ramification which has ever concerned Theodore Gilmore Bilbo is Theodore Gilmore Bilbo, who comes from Mississippi or something, where it costs $2 to vote and less than 10 per cent of the citizens do.

The Man is that man's favorite topic of conversation, and under the rules of the U. S. Senate he can discuss him until he keels over exhausted. He can then yield the floor to his poll-tax friends, several of whom are reported quivering with eagerness to defend pot likker and fair Southern womanhood against the calumnies of the damnyankees.

This could keep up forever. It may continue until Jan. 3, when the present Congress expires and with it the anti-poll tax bill.

Bilbo's Solemn Pledge

One calm summer night in 1934, The Man rubbed the pistol-butt scar on his forehead, stretched to his full height of 62 inches, and solemnly promised the voters of Mississippi:

"If you elect me Senator, I'll raise more hell than Huey Long."

This is the only campaign promise The Man has ever kept. He couldn't help it. And five years later, in rapt appreciation, the Washington correspondents voted him second most useless man in the Senate. No one can remember who the most useless was, and that's just as well.

The Man first started making himself useless in 1910, when he was in the Mississippi legislature. The legislature had just elected one LeRoy Percy, U. S. Senator, and Percy's opponent, James K. Vardaman,

screamed *fraud!*

The grand jury investigated, and it was learned that Bilbo had accepted $645 to cast his vote for Percy. This Bilbo admitted whereupon The Man explained:

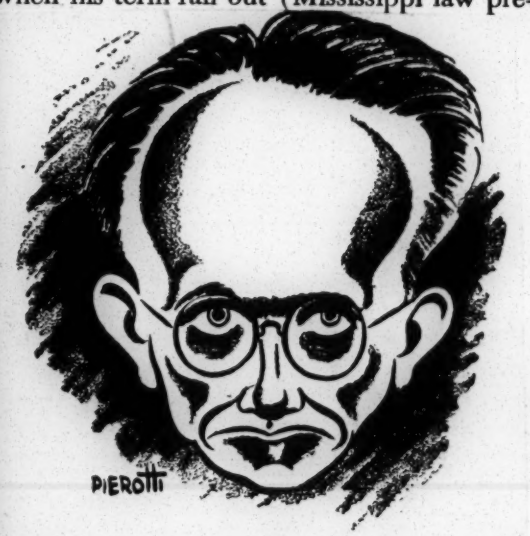
"I did it only to catch 'em—to prove there was bribery going on."

Refused to Resign

A resolution was offered to expel him from the legislature; it failed by one vote. However, another resolution was immediately passed, 25 to 1, calling on him to resign and terming him "unfit to associate with honest upright men." He didn't; he announced his candidacy for lieutenant governor instead, and he was elected.

It was during this campaign that he received the pistol-butt scar. The Man had called an enemy of his "the offspring of a hyena and a mongrel, begotten in a graveyard at midnight, suckled by a sow, and educated by a damn fool." The man thus characterized naturally took offense and laid The Man Bilbo out cold.

Four years later he was governor, and when his term ran out (Mississippi law pre-



Sen. Theodore Gilmore Bilbo (D., Miss.), also known as The Man, is trying to talk the anti-poll tax bill to death.

vents the governor from succeeding himself) The Man put his best friend, Lee Russell, in the job.

This ultimately resulted in The Man spending 10 days in jail. A woman (young) sued Russell for $100,000, charging seduction, and The Man was called to appear on her behalf. He didn't, and hid out instead. The bailiffs found him crouching behind a heifer.

One editor chided: "Some people feel sorry for the girl. Some people feel sorry for Bilbo. We feel sorry for the defendant. Some people feel sorry for the heifer."

The Man's second term as governor was lively, too. A woman (blonde) attempted to shoot him. She missed. He reorganized the University of Mississippi, the Mississippi State College for Women, and the Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College. He reorganized them so drastically that:

¶ The American Law School Assn. dropped the university from its list of accredited institutions.

¶ The American Society of Civil Engineers took similar action against the university and the state engineering college.

¶ The Southern Assn. of Colleges and Secondary Schools decreed that diplomas from any of the institutions were "valueless."

When The Man left the governorship, the state was completely bankrupt. The Man said that was all right; he was broke, too.

Soon after, Mrs. Bilbo, who is not known as The Woman, quit her WPA job to sue him for divorce.

The next were lean years indeed. The Man went to Washington to sponge on his friends. The late Sen. Pat Harrison paid his laundry bills. Finally Harrison squeezed him into the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, where he was paid $6000 yearly for clipping newspapers.

The Man threw up his job, went back home, and ran for the Senate. The results can be seen in Washington today.

Concerning The Man's ideas not much can be said. The Man himself proudly admits that his mind is defective. He was an isolationist, naturally. He favors wartime prohibition.

He believes all Negroes should be sent to live in Africa.

Scornful Press Raps Filibuster

Editors Warn Poll Taxers They Jeopardize Respect for Senate

First editorial reaction to the Poll Taxers' filibuster in the Senate was one of angry warning to the Senate that it jeopardizes the last shred of public esteem for that body.

Because of the lateness of the break on Saturday afternoon, few Sunday papers commented but those which did were emphatic.

"The tactics by which some Southern legislators are fighting it (the anti-poll tax law) are so indefensible that they likely will alienate whatever sympathy remained for full state control over election machinery," said the Washington *Post*. "The important minority is to be congratulated on its forthright efforts to round up the slackers by force.

"The Senate punched a gaping hole in its reservoir of good will yesterday. Senator Bilbo's filibuster previously had sloshed a good deal of water over the sides of that same reservoir. Today it is leaking in much the same way that it leaked several months ago when Congressmen voted pensions for themselves. And the precious fluid that is running out is the faith of the American people in their chief instrument of representative government.

"The necessity of issuing warrants for the arrest of absentee Senators to obtain a quorum is a severe reproach, even in time of peace. In wartime such drastic measures to compel delinquent legislators to attend to their duty are the gravest sort of reflection upon their patriotism. And that is particularly true when some of the absent members appear to be hiding out to thwart legislative action."

Other comment follows:

St. Louis *Post-Dispatch*: "The Senators of the poll tax states evidently are prepared to filibuster, absent themselves from the chamber, or do almost anything else to preserve the feudal poll tax which keeps millions of citizens from the polls.

New Orleans *Item*: "The Senators who perpetuated and participated in the walkout should be ashamed of themselves. Those tactics are bad enough in peace time, but far worse during war time. Such actions make the Senate as a whole look ridiculous. Since the United States is a democracy, such issues should be decided by majority vote. Therefore, every Senator should participate."

New York *Herald Tribune*: "There can be no controversy over the tactics which a group of Southern Senators have adopted to defeat the measure. They are indefensible. Those opposing the poll-tax measure are in no position to speak of "orderly government." They are seeking by parliamentary tricks and evasions to stall the normal functioning of the Senate, and this in time of war.

"A minority is striking against the Senate with no more warrant than strikers in war industry, and with equally serious effects. In sum, Senator Bilbo and the other Senators who think and act as he does have done a grave disservice to their country in a critical hour. It is to be hoped that public opinion, North and South, will join in rebuking them."

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Throw It Out

Six days of filibustering in the Senate have been a heavy drain upon the prestige of that legislative body. Citizens who are interested in getting on with the war cannot avoid a feeling of disgust when they realize that some representatives of the people are willing to put aside all the momentous issues of our day and indulge in an endless gab-fest designed to prevent action on a bill. This loss of prestige will hurt the Senate as a body as well as the Senators who are turning themselves into mere talking machines.

By now it is obvious, however, that the filibustering Southerners would rather block the antipoll-tax bill than preserve the dignity of the Senate or get ahead with the solution of war problems. The position they have taken is especially indefensible in wartime, but they have already demonstrated that they have no intention of conforming to democratic procedure. That throws a special burden upon the Senate majority, and particularly upon Majority Leader Barkley, to stop this morale-destroying performance before any further damage is done.

Nov. 20, 1942

After all, the leaders of the Senate have the foremost responsibility of preventing that body from going into a seemingly endless tailspin during wartime. Knowing the volatile character of the issue this bill raises, they should not have permitted it to encroach upon the closing weeks of the session. In any event, their obligation to end the filibuster is now apparent, and that can apparently be done only by withdrawing the bill from further consideration. Indeed, the advocates of this measure would be well advised to transfer their fight from Washington to the capitals of States still taxing the voting privilege. That is where the fight should have been made in the first place.

It is unsatisfactory, of course, to have any bill blocked by a filibuster, but it would also be unwise for Congress to pass a bill so repugnant to the Constitution as this seems to be. Certainly the bill is not worth what its intrusion upon a wartime session of Congress is costing in terms of congressional prestige and wasted legislative time. There is now no alternative to throwing it out, and the sooner the better.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

SHALL THE BLOODY SHIRT WAVE AGAIN?

For two generations after the Civil war there was a sectional issue in all political contests. Those who raised the issue and sought to stir and keep alive old animosities between North and South were called wavers of the bloody shirt. To wave the bloody shirt meant that appeals were being made to prejudice and anger, instead of to reason and commonsense. There were notorious politicians in the North who for years rode to power on the issue. In the South there were likewise wavers of the bloody shirt who found it often an effective means of getting public office when merit could not have achieved that end.

Nov. 17, 1942

The Spanish-American war did much to bury the bloody shirt as an issue in politics. Boys from the North and boys from the South marched shoulder to shoulder against a foreign enemy and found they liked each other. Joe Wheeler became a national hero along with Admiral Dewey. The first World War was thought to have administered a solar plexus to the bloody shirt crowd, for the fields of Europe ran red with the mingled blood of boys from both sides of the Mason-Dixon line. Thousands of Northern boys met and married Southern girls. Thousands of our Southern soldier boys stationed in the North brought home brides from Yankeeland, and there arose a new kind of united America.

Economically, there were still bloody shirt wavers who clung to their privileges, and who still regarded the South as a colonial area to be exploited by unfair freight rates, high interest rates, production of raw materials instead of finished products, always a buyer instead of a seller. Then came the Roosevelt Democratic administration, and more equitable recognition of the South economically than had ever been accorded before. For the first time since the Civil war, the States of the South felt that once more they were really a part of the American Union equal in every respect to the others, and sharing in government service and government treatment and government solicitude on the same basis as the most favored states of the Union.

Nov. 17, 1942

After that came a great war of self-defense. The whole national safety was at stake. Self-preservation spurred the nation to all-out effort against the enemy. Never in history had North and South, East and West been so completely united in one common aim, and in solemn determination to achieve a great purpose. Pearl Harbor unified Americans as nothing else had ever done.

And now, there have arisen in the midst of all this, some more wavers of the bloody shirt; selfish lobbyists in Washington who thrive on dissention, and make their living by stirring strife; selfish politicians who hope to gain or retain public office by fomenting class and race hatreds; greedy profiteers who resort even to the bloody shirt to restore their ancient and selfish and unfair profits; Northern politicians who would go rough shod over rights guaranteed in the Constitution for the sake of winning a few class-conscious and race-conscious votes.

Alabama is a straight-thinking state; it has straight thinking leaders. Real Alabamians are not afraid that someone is going to impose conditions upon them which they do not want and could not tolerate. We have dealt wisely with such things in the past, and we shall do it again. We shall do it without too much talking and without too much intemperance.

There is no difference of opinion among us on certain fundamentals. Therefore, let's not permit the bloody shirt wavers to throw us off balance.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

DIGNIFIED AND RESTRAINED

The Alabama Legislature's resolution "imploring" the national Congress not to pass the pending anti-poll tax bill was thoroughly dignified and fully representative of the sentiment of the people of Alabama. Perhaps the resolution went too far in referring to the measure before the national Senate as promising to destroy "the last existing cornerstone of states' rights and local self government."

It is an inexcusable and unconstitutional invasion of states rights, though it is going too far to say that the poll tax is the "last existing cornerstone" of a principle which is the basis of our form of government; that is, the fine balance between the powers reserved constitutionally to the states, and the powers granted directly to the central government.

Nov. 18, 1942

If Alabama chooses to abolish the poll tax as a voting requirement that is Alabama's business, and there is no doubt that Alabama voters would at least welcome an opportunity to abolish of their own accord the cumulative feature of the tax and prevent it from piling up year after year to become an insuperable burden to many prospective voters. Abolishment of the poll tax would by no means throw down the suffrage bars to all comers, for the poll tax is only one of various requirements necessary in this State for the exercise of the highest privilege of citizenship.

The interests in Washington making such a drive to punish eight Southern states which retain the poll tax requirement are not frank and honest in their efforts. They are not honest when they use general election figures to show how few persons vote in the Southern states, because we settle all political contests in our primaries and it is not necessary to take the trouble to vote in November. They are not honest in that they fail to show how Louisiana, North Carolina and Florida which have abolished their poll taxes voluntarily have better government, or higher percentage of voters to population, or expansion of Negro suffrage, than can be found in the states retaining the poll tax. They are not honest in their intimations that the payment of poll taxes by candidates for office is the only form of corruption and slush funds found in the American balloting system. They are not honest when they say that the poll tax shuts 10,000,000 white and Negro citizens out of the polling booths of eight Southern states. Something else besides poll tax keeps ignorant, ill-informed, and unprepared persons from exercising a privilege which they have neither earned, nor deserved, and which they would not know how to exercise if they had it. Our first voting requirement in Alabama is not the payment of a poll tax, but that the citizen earn and deserve the honor.

Nov. 18 1942

The fact is that this whole poll tax performance in Washington is political and is using time that ought to be used in getting on with the war. Instead of promoting national unity and harmony the proponents of this legislation are arousing strife, and racial and class feeling.

The Alabama legislature in the resolution it has passed without debate and without pyrotechnics has set an excellent example in dignity and restraint under unusual provocation.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

How Rumors Are Spiked In Boston

Nov. 19

Rumors fly thick and fast in wartime. Most people listen to them, but do nothing about them. Boston is different. It has a "Rumor Clinic."

In an article in a recent issue of the American Mercury, Elsie McCormick attributes chief responsibility for the clinic to an Irish girl named Frances Sweeney. "Miss Sweeney," says the writer, "had long been distressed by the anti-Semitic, anti-British and defeatist rumors current among certain sections of the Boston Irish. Until suppressed by official action, Francis J. Moran, of the Christian Front, had released scores of new ones every time he held a meeting in Hibernian Hall. Miss Sweeney had been attending such meetings, often standing up to challenge wild statements by the speakers. In one case she was forcibly ejected from the hall."

Miss Sweeney appealed to William G. Gavin, associate publisher of The Boston Herald, for help and together they called a meeting of twelve public officials and lead-

ers of various groups to plan a campaign for counteracting the rumors. Shortly before, the giant liner Queen Mary had entered Boston harbor for a few days and, just as a test, those present at the meeting were asked what rumors they had heard about the Queen Mary's visit.

* * * *

"Each one," says Miss McCormick, "offered a different story. The police commissioner had reports from Negroes that the Queen Mary was crammed with colored troops destined for suicide work in the war zone. A college representative had heard there was not a single Jewish soldier aboard because they all managed to get out of overseas duty.

"Someone else offered the story of a mutiny. A social worker had been informed that the ship had gone out at night, ablaze from stem to stern, and a businessman had been told that she had sunk not far from Boston with great loss of American life."

These fantastic stories made clear the need for a city-wide fight against rumors. The result was the Rumor Clinic. On its advisory board are the commissioner of police, the United States attorney, psychology professors of Harvard and Boston Universities, newspaper publishers, social workers, and representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, C. I. O., A. F. L., Women's Trade Union League, and of the Irish, Jewish and Negro sections of the population.

* * * *

Anyone who hears a rumor is asked to write it down and send it into the clinic, which is closely affiliated with the Division of Propaganda Research of the Massachusetts Committee of Public Safety. Every communication has to be signed by the writer. The rumor is then submitted to officials of the army, navy and the FBI who provide the true answer and the rumor and findings are published in The Boston Herald's "Rumor Clinic" column, posted on bulletin boards in factories, announced by speakers at meetings, slipped into department store pay envelopes and sent by laundries to customers along with the clean wash. Bartenders, by the way, have proved to be the most successful collectors of rumors.

One popular rumor spiked after it had gained wide currency was that the British never bomb the Krupp works in Germany because Winston Churchill owns shares of stock in the concern. The answer is, of course, that the British frequently have bombed Essen where the Krupp works are located.

Most of the rumors circulated among Negroes, it was found, had to do with the wanton sacrifice of Negro troops. Another was to the effect that goods destined for Russia were allowed to pile on local docks because this country was afraid Russia was about to make a separate peace. Still another declared there would be no ham for workers because all of it was being sent to Russia. Among the Irish working people a rumor was spread that Mme. Litvinoff, English-born wife of the Soviet Ambassador, was fabulously wealthy through the ownership of brothels in London. A persistent yarn was that an American soldier, broadcasting from Australia, had said, "After we clean up the Germans and the Japs, we're coming home to take care of the Jews." That one was traced to a German girl whose family had once belonged to the German-American Bund.

Interesting is the relationship between the rumors and the Axis short-wave broadcasts. "The Rev. Walton Cole, a Boston Unitarian pastor," says Miss McCormick, "has long made a hobby of listening to the German short-wave radio and recording the high spots. Rumors circulating in Boston are turned over to him by the Rumor Clinic, to be checked against the voices from Berlin. More than half the stories reported to the Rumor Clinic are found to have been told on the Axis short-wave a week or two earlier."

More difficult than collecting rumors is tracing them to their source. Miss Sweeney does most of the tracing, but she finds it a tough job. Take, for example, the rumor of the anti-Jewish broadcast from Australia. "An advertising man explained that the story had been told him by the man at the next desk, who had actually heard the broadcast. The second man denied that he had heard the broadcast himself, but said his wife had. The wife told Miss Sweeney that, while she hadn't actually heard the statement, she had got it from her mother. Her mother said it had come, not from her radio, but from her German butcher."

When questioned the butcher "blew up" and ordered Miss Sweeney from his shop. It was through another lead that she traced it to the German girl with former Bund connections.

The Rumor Clinic is interested in hearing rumors from other parts of the country. Rumors may be addressed to the Division of Propaganda Research, Massachusetts Committee of Public Safety, 18 Tremont Street, Boston. The clinic would also like to see similar clinics organized and operating in every big city.—Baltimore Evening Sun.

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Montgomery, Ala.

Special Session Held Likely To Close Saturday

Leaders Anxious To Get Business In Call Over And Then Go Home

By ATTICUS MULLIN

The newly elected Alabama Legislature will convene today at noon in extra session called by Gov. Frank M. Dixon for the purpose of giving education certain additional monies. With somewhere around 50 members milling around the Exchange Hotel lobby Sunday evening, it appeared that everything was cut and dried concerning the organization and the work to be done and that Saturday noon would see the session close.

Governor-elect Chauncey Sparks, Majority Leader Charlie Norman, of Bullock, Lieut. Gov.-elect Handy Ellis and Speaker-to-be George Miller reached the city Sunday and were in conference during the evening with various legislators.

The two important posts that the legislators will fill, Speaker of the House and President pro tem of the Senate, will find Representative George Miller of Sumter and Senator James Simpson of Jefferson the unanimous choice of the membership of the House and Senate.

The next two most important posts, Secretary of the Senate and clerk of the House will be filled by two veterans, Earl Speight in the Senate and Robert Goodwyn of Montgomery in the House. Neither will have opposition.

Enrolling Clerks

It was learned Sunday evening that the high finger of favor had tapped the shoulders of Gus Thompson of Birmingham and J. D. Kirtland of Montgomery, Thompson to be enrolling clerk of the Senate and Kirtland to be enrolling and engrossing clerk of the House. Both are veterans of several legislatures.

There was a welter of candidates for the four door-keeper posts milling around the lobbies but the writer did not hear who was in the lead for these posts.

Only three committees will be appointed in the House, according to Representative George Miller who will be the speaker. "We will only need a rules committee, a committee on the journal and a committee on enrollment and engrossment of bills," said the Speaker-to-be. "Other committees will be appointed when the Legislature convenes in regular session early in January.

Lieut. Gov. Handy Ellis indicated to the writer that in the event there were resolutions condemning the effort of certain senators in Washington to tamper with the Alabama poll tax law, there will certainly be a fight if there is any excoriation of the New Deal. "Straight resolutions leaving out an attack upon the New Deal would certainly be in order," said the lieutenant governor-elect.

With reference to Lieut. Gov.-elect Ellis, his inauguration will not take place until January and so the President pro tem of the Senate will preside at the extra session. That man will be Senator James Simpson of Jefferson.

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New Pitfalls Spaded For Poll Tax Bill

Southerners To Burden It With Amendments If Their Filibuster Fails

48-Hour Week Out

O'Daniel Will Try To Pin On Provision Drying Up Vicinities Of Army Posts

WASHINGTON, Nov. 15.—(AP)—Southern senators fighting the anti-poll tax bill gave notice today that they would load it down with amendments for a 48-hour week, prohibition and other controversial matters if the administration gets it untangled from the snarl of a filibuster.

Senator George (D), Georgia, announced that an amendment would be offered lengthening the statutory work week to 48 hours and providing that workers should get the same pay for 48 hours as they receive now in regular and overtime pay for a work week which might be shorter. George added that he understood at least 40 other amendments of various kinds were being prepared.

"All of these may not be germane to the poll tax," he told reporters, "but I am sure all of them will advocate action that many people in this country think ought to be taken."

Senator O'Daniel (D), Texas, another opponent of the poll tax bill, has announced that he will seize the first opportunity to obtain a vote on a proposal to ban the sale of alcoholic drinks in the vicinity of military posts. A similar amendment was proposed by Senator Lee (D), Oklahoma, to the 'teen-age draft bill but the Senate ducked a pre-election vote by sending it back to the military committee for further study.

Starting Fresh Today

Ensnarled in a developing filibuster, the Senate will start all over tomorrow on the House-approved bill to outlaw poll taxes with Democratic Leader Barkley, of Kentucky, expected to move for its immediate consideration. He offered a similar motion Friday but it was tied up in debate over a motion by Senator Connally (D), Texas, appealing from a presiding officer's ruling that the bill was reported properly by the judiciary committee.

A move to table a similar appeal, should it develop tomorrow, would cut off debate temporarily and bring a test vote. If the presiding officer's ruling was upheld, a vote then would be in order on Barkley's original motion to bring the bill actually before the Senate for its consideration.

Progress through this maze of parliamentary procedure might not be calculated to cool the tempers which flared yesterday when Barkley forced through a motion ordering the sergeant-at-arms to arrest absentees and bring them in so the Senate could go through the motions of transacting business with a quorum present.

Business Bogs Down

Senator McKellar (D), Tennessee, routed out of his hotel apartment by a deputy sergeant-at-arms who obtained entrance with a maid's key, made a brief angry appearance as the 49th senator answering to his name, thus technically providing a quorum.

He left quickly, however, as Senator Bilbo (D), Mississippi, talked on, his desk piled high with reference books, and attendance dwindled until only a handful remained when the Senate wearily adjourned late in the day.

Legislation permitting a merger of the Western Union and Postal Telegraph Companies may come before the House within the next few weeks. Chairman Lea (D), California, of the House interstate commerce committee, which has studied the proposal for months, said the committee definitely expected to get the measure through this session. It already has passed the Senate.

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Montgomery, Ala.

One Brief Week Of Job Ahead For War Legislature

Business At Hand Holds Members At Opening

NOV. 17 19

Brevity Feature

Bills Up Monday May Be Law By Next Sunday

By HARTWELL HATTON
Advertiser City Editor

Alabama's new Legislature, which will go down in history as a war Legislature, met yesterday in extraordinary session with a great show of harmony and singleness of purpose and skeptics, who smiled when Gov. Dixon and Gov.-elect Sparks said the session should be over within a week, began to feel that a miracle indeed was in process of happening.

With a seasoning of veterans but consisting largely of freshman lawmakers, the Legislature convened at noon, each house proceeding with its organization conforming to the well-rehearsed programs announced in advance. Then, with a minimum loss of time the legislation contemplated in Gov. Dixon's call was initiated and sent to committee. Provided controversy remains absent, the bills introduced at the opening day may be law before the dawn of another Sabbath day.

Introduced were bills to:

Appropriate a sum not in excess of $2,000,000 from the special educational trust fund for the lengthening of school terms.

Appropriate money to defray cost of the special session.

Authorize appointment of interim committees which will deliberate between the first 10 days of the regular session and the day in May when the lawmaking body will convene for the real business of making laws.

Protect State, county and municipal officers entering military service.

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Provide for U. S. senators terms to begin in January.

No Controversy

So far as could be seen there was no seed of controversy in any of the legislation initiated yesterday. Neither was there any sign that further legislation would be attempted at this session. Under such circumstances, there was no reason to predict that the session would be prolonged beyond the quitting time established in the hopes of Messrs. Dixon and Sparks. If more bills are introduced the session may extend itself. On the other hand if the Legislature quits Saturday any additional bills will have no chance of enactment.

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There was a cursory glance at the poll tax bill fight now raging in the U. S. Senate. Representative Tram Sessions introduced and the House adopted a joint resolution memorializing the Senate not to pass the bill. The resolution did not reach the Senate in time for action yesterday. Its adoption there will of course be a formality.

George O. Miller, a veteran of four legislative sessions, received the reward of an honorable record when he was elevated to the speaker's seat in the House by the unanimous vote of the members. His name was placed before the body during the Democratic caucus which preceded organization. Representative Charley Norman, of Bullock, who presided over the caucus, vacated the speaker's seat to Judge Hugh D. Merrill, speaker of the retiring House, and Mr. Merrill passed the gavel on to Mr. Miller. It was all a smooth ceremony and the new speaker assumed his seat with the grace to be expected of a statesman of Blackbelt background.

In the Senate, Senator Jim Simpson, of Jefferson, likewise unopposed, became president pro tem. He will preside throughout the special session in the absence of Lieut. Gov. Albert Carmichael, now a colonel in the U. S. Army. Handy Ellis, lieutenant governor-elect, will not be inaugurated until Jan. 18 when Sparks becomes governor.

Speight Reelected

Earl Speight who knows the Senate's operation backward and forward and could probably run the job with both hands tied, was elected secretary to succeed himself.

The House reelected as clerk Bob Goodwyn who served in the last Legislature, thus availing itself of his experience in the office.

When House and Senate met in joint session to hear the message of Gov. Dixon the members received a glimpse of the incoming Governor but did not hear from him. Mr. Sparks acknowledged his introduction with a smile and nothing more. Mr. Ellis, the incoming lieutenant governor, did likewise.

Gov. Dixon's message set a record for brevity and terseness. He merely reviewed the legislation set up in the call and the need giving rise to it.

U. S. Representative Henry B. Steagall, of the Third District, dropped into the House on an informal visit, and in a brief talk declared passage of the poll tax measure would "nullify the right of the people to determine their qualifications to vote." Steagall also attacked what he described as a trend toward "bureaucracy" in the Federal government which he said he hoped would be stopped when the war has been terminated.

Governor Dixon delivered his formal message to a joint session, while Sparks sat at his side. The Governor, in a brief formal statement, merely outlined purposes of the call and emphasized their "obvious necessity."

Referring of all bills to the rules committee of each house foreshadowed speedy enactment. No other committees empowered to pass on legislation were named for the special session, the few others being appointed simply to see that the bills are engrossed and enrolled and the journals correct—technical duties.

House Committees

Rules — Speaker Miller, chairman; administration floor leader C. D. Norman, Bullock, vice-chairman; W. C. Beebe, Baldwin; J. Fred Wood, Bibb; Earl L. Tucker, Clarke; George B. McDonald, Coosa; Waldo E. Ard, Dale; Hunter Golson, Elmore; Ivy J. Gwin, Jefferson; Joseph C. Sullivan, Mobile; James B. Allen, Etowah; John G. White, Perry; Sibyl Pool, Marengo; Brooks Green, Pike; J. C. Austin, Tuscaloosa.

Revision of Journal — William C. Thomas, Montgomery, chairman; Wilbur E. Dearman, Sumter; S. M. Cobb, Wilcox; Roger Snyder, Jefferson; J. F. Gillis, Clarke; R. L. Henderson, Cherokee; J. A. Carnley, Coffee; Dennis Porter, Choctaw; John S. Golson, Butler.

Engrossed and Enrolled Bills—Henry Neill Segrest, Macon, chairman; E. T. Harrison, Wilcox; Frank Head, Shelby; Harley M. Dobbs, Elmore; W. H. Stewart, Morgan.

Senate Committees

Rules — Simpson, chairman; Charles E. Shaver, Madison; Shell H. Toomer, Lee; O. D. Carlton, Marengo; Charles A. Stakely, Montgomery; Vincent Kilborn, Mobile; Preston Clayton, Barbour.

Engrossed Bills — George M. Taylor, Autauga, chairman; M. W. Espy, Henry; John H. Pinson, Pickens.

Enrolled Bills—Reuben L. Newton, Walker, chairman; Monroe Black, Lowndes; M. N. Dodson, Pike.

Revision of Journal—Elvin McCary, Calhoun, chairman; Sam High, St. Clair; Orlan B. Hill, Lauderdale; J. B. Benson, Jackson.

Bills having identical intent were introduced in both houses as follows:

1. By Senator Simpson and Representative Norman — To appropriate not in excess of $2,000,000 of funds now frozen in the special education trust fund, to the minimum program fund for the extension of school terms.

2. Senator St. John (Cullman) and Representative Beebe — To protect jobs of State officials and employes entering military service, and to provide for temporary appointments by the usual appointing authority during their absence.

(3) By Senator Shaver and Representative Smyer—Similar bills for counties.

(4) By Senator Stakeley and Representative Rains—Similar bills for cities.

(5) By Senator Andrews and Representative Stone—To appropriate $150,000 for expenses of the session.

(6) By Senator Walton and Representative Harris—To amend the State code into conformity with the Federal Lame Duck Amendment, providing for the U. S. Senator's term to begin in January instead of March, as under an old State law.

Miller Lauded

Speaker Miller was placed in nomination by his Sumter County colleague, Wilbur Dearman, who described him as a veteran of 16 years in the Legislature—"a man who has never dodged the issue, has always fought for his convictions.

"Just as Mr. Sparks will make us a great wartime governor, so will Mr. Miller make us a great wartime speaker," Dearman asserted. Seconding the nomination, Representative A. D. Kirby of Jackson described Miller as a "man of courage, action and common sense."

In addition to the speaker and clerk, the House elected the following officers:

John F. Campbell, Cleburne, assistant clerk; J. W. Kirtland, Montgomery, engrossing and enrolling clerk; W. H. Barnard Birmingham, doorkeeper; W. M. Blackwell, Montgomery, assistant doorkeeper. Speaker Miller will appoint the sergeant-at-arms and various pages, messengers and clerks. He announced the appointment of Oakley W. Melton, Elmore, as reading clerk, succeeding Montgomery's Mayor Cyrus Brown.

After electing a president pro tem and a secretary, the Senate named the veteran Tollie Austin of Elmore as assistant secretary; Gus Thompson, Jefferson, enrolling and engrossing clerk; J. G. Watkins, Barbour, doorkeeper; R. D. Malone, Limestone, assistant doorkeeper; Tom Carlton Law, Linden; John David Hall, Scottsboro; Clarence Norton, Jr., Clayton; Jimmy Black, Fort Deposit; Jackie Hornsby, Montgomery, and Emmett Weaver as messengers and pages.

There were 33 senators and 93 House members present at the opening roll calls. Several others showed up later, while there was at least one vacancy in the House, caused by the resignation of Conecuh's Lamar Kelly, and several were known to be absent on military service. Senator Clayton of Barbour appeared in a major's uniform.

Representive Sessions' resolution anent the poll tax, passed without debate on a voice vote, follows:

"Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature of Alabama does hereby commend the senators of the United States from this State and other sections of the nation, for their magnificent fight against the imposed poll tax law, which is calculated to destroy our methods and destroying the last existing cornerstone of States' rights and local self-government."

The Senate reconvenes today at 10 a.m., the House at noon. Rules committees of each were called to meet during the morning.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Poll Tax Fight To Echo Here In Legislature

NOV 15 1942

Joint Resolution Likely In Special Session On New Deal's Meddling

By ATTICUS MULLIN

It is expected that the first joint resolution offered when the new Alabama Legislature meets in Montgomery Monday at noon will be one deploring the New Deal attack upon the democratic institutions of the South through the poll tax bill now pending in Congress.

The writer hears that several resolutions along this line are being prepared for introduction in the Legislature and that several members of that body will seek unanimous consent for recognition on the personal privilege plea so that they can gain the floor and throw Alabama actively behind the senators from the eight Southern States who are standing almost alone in Washintgon in fighting the bill which would abolish the poll tax as a prerequisite for voting.

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Alabama democracy, since the days of the carpetbaggers from the North, has always had placed upon its ballot in democratic primaries the words "White Supremacy." That is the slogan of Alabama democracy and the democracy of the other seven Southern States which the Congress of the United States is attacking through the poll tax bill which is approaching a filibuster in the Senate.

Extreme Action

That the national democratic administration is determined to force this measure down the throats of eight Southern States during wartime is considered evident by those who will introduce joint resolutions condemning the resolutions. The resolutions will point out that Senator Barkley, of Kentucky, President Roosevelt's own leader in the Senate of the United States, went to the extreme Saturday of having warrants issued for sovereign Southern Senators who were not in the chamber when the bill was called up. They point out that Barkley, through the overwhelming influence of President Roosevelt, was chosen Senate leader over the lamented Senator Pat Harrison, of Mississippi, who was entitled to it by seniority and by ability. They regard Barkley as a mediocre man.

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Several new legislators have told the writer in recent days that the attack upon the institutions of the South by a democratic administration is the beginning of the end of the one party system in the South. The fact that the attack comes from the Roosevelt wing of the Democratic Party and not from Republicans, has been noted, these men we talked to say, and they are confident that there is a sentiment in the Solid South that it will be solid no more but will vote for its friends.

The resolutions, the writer understands, will point out that the slogan of "White Supremacy" is the thing which has held the South solidly democratic in the past. The resolutions will further point out that when that slogan is knocked into oblivion by the votes of a democratic administration which holds a top heavy majority in the Senate, there will no longer be any use to call upon the South for electoral votes and expect to get them just because somebody is running as a "Democrat."

NOV 15 1942

No Opposition In Sight

From what the writer gathers, there will not be a single dissenting vote against the joint resolutions regarding the poll tax fight now going on in Congress.

Authors of these resolutions do not believe that the New Deal can depend upon the "big city vote, the negro vote, the labor vote and the Solid South" for election next time. Southern politics is in the throes of a fight that may mean a rebirth of the old idea that the South would be better off with a party of its own, capable of being thrown to a candidate for president who would pledge himself to respect the traditions of the South, in the opinion of incoming legislators with whom the writer has talked.

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Montgomery, Ala.

Senators Are Arrested For Being Absent

NOV 15 1942

Barkley Forces Quorum To Consider Poll-Tax Bill; Hill Included

NOV 15 1942

WASHINGTON, Nov. 14.—(AP)—By the unusual expedient of ordering its sergeant-at-arms to arrest absentee members, the Senate summoned a quorum today for a filibustering discussion of the measure to abolish State poll taxes as a prerequisite for voting in Federal elections.

For three hours and 42 minutes after it convened at noon, a minority of the Senate set twiddling thumbs while ineffectual attempts were made to obtain a quorum of 49. Administration leaders were determined not to yield an inch to the proponents of delay by an adjournment to Monday.

Finally, after an hour and a half of waiting had produced only 44 members, Democratic Leader Barkley, of Kentucky, moved to instruct Vice-President Wallace to issue warrants for the arrest of all absentees who could be located in the District of Columbia.

Senator Connally (D), Texas, objected but the drastic action was ordered and for the first time since the Boulder Dam fight of May, 1938, a presiding officer signed warrants for the arrest of eight members.

Eight More Sought

The eight included Senators Doxey (D), Mississippi; Maybank (D), South Carolina; O'Daniel (D), Texas; McKellar (D), Tennessee; Russell (D), Georgia; Hill (D), Alabama, and Overton (D), Louisiana, opponents of the poll tax bill, and Senator Bunker (O), Nevada.

It was more than two hours later that McKellar, placed under technical arrest at his apartment in a downtown hotel, walked into the chamber to make the 49th senator recorded present.

NOV 15 19

Senator Bilbo (D), Mississippi, who told reporters he thought he was good for 30 days of talk if it was necessary to speak that long to kill the bill, immediately took the floor with a defense of the promised lengthy debate.

Bilbo spoke for about two hours and then the Senate quit for the day. Before it adjourned, Barkley called on Senate employes to inform senators they were needed in Washington and to return from their homes.

Because the Senate adjourned instead of recessing, the anti-poll tax measure reverted to its status of Friday, when Barkley originally moved to bring it up. Thus it was open to a new attack on a point of order, such as that overruled yesterday when Senator La Follette (Prog), Wisconsin, held that it had been properly reported by the judiciary committee.

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Bilbo Denied Rights

Another effect was to deny Bilbo any special privilege in attempts to obtain the floor Monday.

The interim of waiting had not been without its diversions, however. After a deputy sergeant-at-arms had routed Bunker out of his office at the Senate office building and accompanied him to the chamber, Connally arose to protest that Chesley W. Jurney, sergeant-at-arms, had ordered a deputy to "break down the doors of senators' offices" in order to compel their attendance.

Shouting that this was "a perfect outrage" that was "in line with the unconstitutional, unwarranted and outrageous actions of a group in this Senate," Connally declared:

"If anybody broke down the door of my office, he woudn't be in any shape to break down any doors for at least 24 hours."

The frock-coated Jurney, perspiring with worry over his unaccustomed task, hastily assured reporters that he had merely deputized John Kearney, custodian of the office building, to unlock senators' doors—not to break them down.

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Only 44 Present

At the time Barkley called for the arrest of absentees, 44 senators had answered to their names. During the time that intervened before McKellar appeared, Senators Herring (D), Iowa, and Aiken (R), Vermont, walked in of their own accord. Maybank was found at his home.

In the meantime Senator Hill, of Alabama, who as majority whip is technically charged with obtaining the presence of Democratic members at important sessions, issued a statement through his office that he intended to "oppose with every means in my power" the passage of the anti-poll tax bill. Hill was not found by deputies who had a warrant to bring him into the Senate.

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Hill Bitterly Opposes Bill

NOV 15 1942

Says Poll Tax Act In Line With Lodge Bill Of 1890's

NOV 15 1942

WASHINGTON, Nov. 14.—(AP)—Senator Hill (D), Alabama, said in a statement issued through his office today that he would "oppose with every means in my power" passage by Congress of the anti-poll tax bill.

Hill was one of the senators for whom warrants were issued after the sergeant-at-arms was directed by the Senate to compel attendance of absent members to obtain a quorum and permit consideration of the bill. Although a quorum finally was obtained, Hill was not on the floor.

"I am conscious," said Hill, "of the example set by John T. Morgan of Alabama in the United States Senate in his historic fight against the Lodge Force Bill."

Hill's reference was to Senator Morgan's filibuster which killed the Lodge bill in the 1890's to send Federal troops into the South to supervise all elections.

Hill recalled that when the question of passing the anti-poll tax bill came up in the Senate, he made a speech Sept. 10 "presenting the arguments that show such proposed action to be absolutely unconstitutional."

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"For 150 years," he said, "the Congress, the Supreme Court of the United States and the people have recognized and have held fast to the position that under the Constitution of the United States the fixing of the qualifications of voters in the different States is entirely in the hands of the States. For Congress to pass a law now abolishing the poll tax is for Congress to enter the field of fixing the qualification of voters. It is for the camel to get his nose under the tent. If Congress enters the field of fixing the qualifications of voters no man can say how far Congress may go toward taking over the entire field."

52e-1942
Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

The Poll Tax Battle

Absentee Senators Arrested To Obtain Filibuster Quorum

S-Res. 10 Nov. 15, 1942

By the unusual expedient of ordering its sergeant-at-arms to arrest absentee members, the Senate summoned a quorum yesterday for a filibustering discussion of the measure to abolish State poll taxes as a prerequisite for voting in Federal elections.

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Senator Tom Connally (Democrat), Texas, objected but the drastic action was ordered and for the first time since the Boulder Dam fight of May, 1938, a presiding officer signed warrants for the arrest of eight members.

The eight included Senators Doxey (Democrat), Mississippi, Maybank (Democrat), South Carolina, O'Daniel (Democrat), Texas, McKellar (Democrat), Tennessee, Russell (Democrat), Georgia, Hill (Democrat), Alabama, and Overton (Democrat), Louisiana, opponents of the poll tax bill, and Senator Bunker (Democrat), Nevada.

It was more than two hours later that McKellar, placed under technical arrest at his apartment in a downtown hotel, walked into the chamber to make the 49th Senator recorded present.

Senator Bilbo (Democrat), Mississippi, who told reporters he thought he was good for 30 days of talk, if it was necessary to speak that long to kill the bill, immediately took the floor with a defense of the promised lengthy debate.

The interim of waiting had not been wtihout its diversions, however. After a deputy sergeant-at-arms had routed Bunker out of his office at the Senate Office Building and accompanied him to the chamber, Connally arose to protest that Chesley W. Jurney, sergeant-at-arms, had ordered a deput to "break down the doors of Senators' offices" in order to compel their attendance.

Shouting that this was "a perfect outrage" that was "in line with the unconstitutional, unwarranted and outrageous actions of a group in this Senate," Connally declared:

"If anybody broke down the door of my office, he wouldn't be in any shape to break down any doors for at least 24 hours."

The frock-coated Jurney, perspiring with worry over his unaccustomed task, hastily assured reporters that he had merely deputized John Kearney, custodian of the office building, to unlock Senators' doors—not to break them down.

At the time Barkley called for arrest of absentees, 44 Senators had answered to their names. During the time that intervened before McKellar appeared, Senators Herring (Democrat) of Iowa and Aiken (Republican) of Yermont, walked in of their own accord. Maybank was found at his home.

Hill Pledges Full Opposition

In the meantime, Senator Hill of Alabama, who as majority whip is technically charged with obtaining the presence of Democratic members at important sessions, issued a statement through his office that he intended to "oppose with every means in my power" the passage of the anti-poll tax bill. Hill was not found by deputies, who had a warrant to bring him into the Senate.

When Bilbo began speaking, a count showed only 18 Senators actually in the camber listening.

"It is kind of tantalizing for me to speak at this hour," he began, "since I come from the South, where most people and Ngroes don't work on Saturday afternoon.

"Inevitably there will be a tendency on the part of some newspapers and some commentators to censure us who see fit to discuss this matter at length.

Pepper Interrupts

"I want to let the country know that the responsibility for this prolonged discussion does not rest with those opposing this unreasonable and unconstitutional legislation, because its sponsors knew before it was brought before the Senate that it would bring about a lengthy discussion.

"It was of their own choosing that they brought about this impasse in orderly government in the middle of a world war."

When Bilbo declared that 90 or 95 per cent of the people of his State opposed the legislation, Senator Pepper (Democrat), Florida, author of the bill, asked if they could have misunderstood its provisions.

"No, sir." Bilbo shot back. "They are intelligent people. They understand thoroughly. They know know what this bil is and if the Senator from Florida were as intelligent as the average citizen of Mississippi, he would know it too.'

Bilbo said many other States, including Louisiana and Florida had already eliminated their poll tax laws, that he understood Tennessee was "all geared up to eliminate the poll tax as a prerequisite for voting," and shouted:

"Then why has it become so devilish important to use these tactacs that are going to tie this Congress up until the 3d of January in order to force these remaining eight States to do something the others have done voluntarily? Why are they willing to split the Solid South? I am curious to know what is to be gained. I resent this Hitler spirit, this Hitler domination."

Claims Negro Opposition

Bilbo claimed the "Negro intelligencia of Mississippi," the "educated, cultured Negroes," Resented the Pepper bil land were opposed to it.

Bilbo's desk-top reference library, at least 20 inches thick at noon, was swollen to nearly a yard of books by the addition of several thick, red volumes.

Bilbo defended the poll tax as a revenue-raising device.

"Maybe if the Southern States had the great wealth of some States of the North and East—especially since the Civil War—it wouldn't be necessary to impose this tax," he said.

He proclaimed himself a friend of the Negro race, declared that Negroes had held prayer meetings to pray for his election as Governor of Mississippi, and advocated resettlement of American Negroes in Africa.

"Any Negro who is race conscious is willing to be resettled in West Africa and have his own country," Bilbo said.

"I'm glad to see American forces take West Africa. Perhaps they'll get it in shape for a repatriation move when this war is over. It's a rich land, with a better climate than the United States."

He said the constitution of Liberia, West African republic, forbids white men to vote or own land.

"That's what they think about the white man," he remarked.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

PRESS FILIBUSTER IN POLL TAX FIGHT

Southern Senators Extend Tactics, Promise 'Comma' Corrections in Journal Today

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16—Southern oponents of the House bill to outlaw poll tax payments as a requirement for voting in eight Southern States won the third day's round today in their efforts to prevent Senate consideration of the measure. Nov. 17, 1942

They achieved this victory by preliminary manoeuvring which resulted in nine delaying quorum calls in two hours and promised later that they have another parliamentary trick ready to spring tomorrow, when Senator Barkley, Democratic leader, will make his fourth attempt to make the bill the Senate's pending business.

As the day's two-and-a-half-hour session ended futilely for the bill's propoents, they indicated that their chief hope of being able to get action before Dec. 31, wehn this Congress ends, lay in aroused public antagonism to the Southerners' tactics.

However, Senator Bilbo of Mississippi, who has promised to speak for thirty continuous days against the bill if it can be brought up, voiced confidence tonight that his group will prevail.

Senator Barkley's defeat today resulted in clever use of seldom invoked Senate rules. One such rule provides that the full list of all bills already reported to the Senate for action can be taken up on any Monday and that a motion is in order to make any one of these bills the pending business until it is disposed of. Such a motion is non-debatable and must be voted on at once, but it can be made only in the first two hours of the session devoted to running through this list of bills and only when the bill in question is reached in its order on the calendar.

Since sixty-seven bills, mostly minor ones, preceded the poll tax bill, the delaying tactics of the opposition were easily accomplished.

Senator Bilbo later told gleefully what his tactics will be tomorrow.

"The Senate," he said, "has got into a sloppy habit of approving the journal of the previous day's proceedings without having it read. This is bad. The journal should be absolutely letter-perfect as a record for all future generations to depend upon without question.

"Tomorrow we are going to insist on following the rule providing for its reading if any member demands it, and I am sure we will find misplaced commas and semicolons and such like that must be corrected to consume the two hours which the rules permit for such consideration."

The opposition did not attempt today to use its Saturday tactic which resulted in the technical arrest of several Senators—that of persuading a majority of the members not to answer quorum calls, thus blocking any Senate procedure. The number answering today on the nine roll-calls ran an average of four or five above the forty-nine required for a quorum.

However, Saturday's action brought some tart comment today from Senator Barkley and some critical remarks from Senator Connally, one of the bill's opponents.

Mr. Barkley said he had noted that quite a few members "who were for this measure or pretended to be for it before election" had joined its opponents in absenting themselves from Saturday's quorum calls. Any member had the right to be for or against the bill, he said, but he did not believe any

on with our legs almost shot off and our heads bandaged," he said, and now the Senator wants to give us the coup de grace when we are just barely able to wabble."

Mr. Connally reported that his party leader was "taunting" Senators who did not want the bill brought up because they believe it will disrupt the Democratic party at a time when national unity is imperative.

"We came out of the recent elec-

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

PEOPLE, POLITICS, PLACES

—By WALTER WHITE—

Nov. 21 1942

REPUBLICAN senators lolled at ease on their side of the Senate chamber and restrained with difficulty their glee as they watched Tom Connally and other poll tax senators launch the filibuster which conceivably may make the Democrats the minority party in 1944.

"We will fight it until hell freezes over," said the squat Bilbo. His Mississippi colleague, Wall Doxey, who looks and talks like Rankin, played to the bourbon galleries with a threat to use "every parliamentary weapon" to prevent the 72 to 75 senators, who oppose the poll tax from voting to abolish it.

The acid-tongued Connally spews venom and pulls out of the bag every piece of legislative trickery, fair or foul, to waste time and wear out the supporters of the measure. But his aging wit doesn't crackle and burn and sear as it did when he led the filibuster against the anti-lynching bill four years ago It no longer convulses the galleries or the other senators. His shoulders hunched forward, his head lowered, his long arms and legs clad in loose-fitting black combine to create the impression of a gaunt spider trying to appear ferocious as it descends on his prey.

But Connally's waning powers and belligerence tell only a tiny fraction of the shift in effectiveness of the poll tax bloc. There's a new world outside—a world in which whiteness of skin is no longer the hall mark of supremacy. Grim-faced men in uniform peer puzzledly down from the galleries at the scene below as if to ask, "Is this the thing we go forth to die for?"

It is too bad the blustering, strutting southerners can't hear the expressions of dismay and disgust which their tactics bring forth from the young men of the army and navy who listen to and watch the sorry spectacle. They and the other spectators lean forward as the dapper, snowy-crested sergeant-at-arms of the Senate, Colonel Jurney, reads off the list of senators who cannot be located.

Bourbons Mean Business

It is Saturday, a most unusual day for the Senate to be in session. But the majority leader, Senator Barkley of Kentucky, is manifestly determined to prevent any repetition of the surrender to a filibuster as was done on the anti-lynching bill. A point of "no quorum" made by a filibuster—a favorite obstructionist tactic since a roll-call consumes half an hour or more—has failed to produce the physical presence in the Senate chamber of the necessary 49 senators.

Barkley's motion to arrest and forcibly bring into the chamber the absent senators evokes a brief, bitter and futile flurry from Connally but the motion is carried. Back into somnolent languor sink the senators who are present until the warrants can be served. Nov. 21, 1942

Thus "democracy" is strangled by a handful of southern bourbons while outside the world is aflame. Apathetic senators who are "for" the bill—they will parade their **verbal** approval when next they run for reelection, counting on the forgetfulness of their Negro constituents—form the bulk of those being sought by the sergeant-at-arms. Negro voters and all others who want the poll tax abolished should keep a record and not forget those who failed to show up at quorum calls or who did not manifest enough interest to be on the job when the bill to give a little more democracy to those in the poll tax states who are being asked to die for a a democracy which they have never enjoyed, came up in the Senate.

Make no mistake about it. The bourbons mean business. They do not intend to permit any legislation which the disadvantaged people, Negro or white, ask for and desperately need. If only those who believe in democracy were a tenth as determined as those who would perpetuate lynching and poll taxes and "white" primaries and economic serfdom, real meaning would be attached to the "four freedoms." But these so seldom are stirred to action in the form of telegrams and letters to the White House and their senators and the newspapers even by such arrogance as Bilbo's boast to newspaper men that his doctor has given him "a clean bill of health" to filibuster for a month "except for my mind and I told him that I didn't have much use for that in the Senate."

On the latter Negroes and intelligent white Americans are completely in agreement with Bilbo.

* * *

March of Events

In this space each week, thanks to the generosity of the editors of the Defender, I shall try to tell you something of the march of events in Washington, New York, Mississippi, the West Coast and perhaps other parts of the world where fate and work cause me to go.

Complete latitude of subject matter and treatment of it has been granted me. Dr. Metz Lochard has suggested that a column like Mrs. Roosevelt's "My Day," telling who I have met and talked with, what they said and how they said it, and other material dealing with this fast-moving world of ours might be interesting to you as readers. I'm afraid the time limits of days would be insufficient since an N.A.A.C.P. secretary's work includes many, many nights as well as days.

A column of that sort would be the easiest to write and, perhaps, more interesting than one made of attempts by me to be or appear to be wise and pontifical. But there is no fixed pattern set for me. On occasion I might ever be moved to try to be as profound and omniscient as some of the other columnists, white and colored, now sporting a by-line. But I will try to be simple and interesting and honest—always.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Special Session In Position To Adjourn Today

Jarman And O'Daniel Of Texas Tell Members Poll Tax Bill Is Dead

Nov. 20, 1942

Only the formality of enacting into law six emergency bills before adjournment today faced Alabama's special session Legislature when it recessed yesterday.

Although pressing the bills through the legislative process faster than ever before, in the memory of veteran lawmakers, the session took time out to hear U. S. Senator W. Lee O'Daniel of Texas and Representative Pete B. Jarman of Alabama's sixth district.

Both speakers said the southern senatorial bloc against passage of the anti-poll tax bill now pending in Congress was determined to carry its fight to the end of the session Jan. 3 if necessary to prevent passage of the bill.

"If we live and don't lose our voices by the end of the year," Senator O'Daniel declared, "that bill won't be passed."

"When the war is over," he said, "there will be another battle in the halls of State Legislatures and in Congress on whether we shall have a collectivist State or return to the fundamental principles of American government."

He said there will be nothing gained if America wins democracy for others and loses it for Americans. Americans are fighting this war, he declared, to maintain the Constitution and the American way of life.

This way of life, he continued, is being threatened by what he termed "gungling bureaucracy" in the national government, and added that State and Federal legislation was "being eclipsed" by bureaucratic direction of American life.

Texas and Alabama

O'Daniel said he believed "there is nobody in Washington big enough to tell Texans who can vote, and if I am correctly informed you members of the Alabama Legislature feel the same way."

The Texas senator said he recommended abolition of the poll tax in Texas when he was governor of that State, but added he was "unalterably opposed to the Federal government telling Texas what it should do."

He said he feared that if the American people were not vigilant governmental bureaucracy would overcome their right to have their affairs run by their elected representatives.

The national government, he added, had allowed foreign "isms" and ideas to influence its governing policies and the District of Columbia, "is not big enough to hold all the governmental bureaus of the Federal government."

"I belong to that old Democratic school that believes in legislation" for State and national laws, he told the joint bodies of the special session Legislature, and not in having "one department of boards and bureaus" to run the land.

He said he fully realized that wartime demands necessitated centralizing power in the Federal government to some extent, but added that laws should be enacted by legislation and not directed by governmental bureaus.

Lands Alabama Senators

O'Daniel paid tribute to Alabama's two senators, John H. Bankhead and Lister Hill. He referred to Senator Bankhead as a great leader for agricultural interests and said that he, too, sought to represent and agricultural people.

Besides working for farmers' interests, O'Daniel said he was a true friend of honest laborers but a determined foe of labor racketeers who profit off the earnings of workers and dictate to them the way in which they should work.

He said he outlawed strikes in Texas when he was governor and that he was seeking to do the same in Congress. He recommended to the Alabama lawmakers that outlawing of strikes would bring new industries to the State.

Referring to the right of freedom of the press, Senator O'Daniel said "most of the large Texas daily papers have opposed me every time I have run."

He said he was opposed to limitation of hte work week for American workmen. While foreign countries were working 50 and 60 hours a week, he said, America was limiting its working week to much less.

The Texas senator said he was among those who sought to have teen-aged draftees given one year of training before being sent to foreign battlefields. He said if teen-aged boys are drafted, certainly workers could extend their hours to meet wartime emergency requirements.

Meanwhile, administration leaders indicated that the emergency legislative session called by Gov. Dixon at the request of Governor-elect Sparks probably would reach adjournment about noon today.

Interim Committees

Appointment of interim committees to study State problems and national defense legislation between its January and May terms was authorized yesterday by the special session.

The committees will be named at the January session by presiding officers of the House and Senate, and were authorized on finance and taxation, education, highways, war emergency legislation judiciary, agriculture, health and welfare.

Arrangements for the committees were made at this session since under a new constitutional amendment providing for biennial instead of quadrennial meetings, only formal organization work may be taken up in January.

The committees will consist of three senators and eight representatives each, and chairmen will be empowered to employ a clerk. Members will draw pay of $10 a day, but may not be paid for more than 30 days.

Gov. Dixon is expected to sign today the six emergency bills the special Legislature was called to enact. Each House will have to give final readings and passage to bills from the opposite House.

Most important of the bills is one to appropriate $2,000,000 to lengthen the public school term to eight months. This sum will be increased by $107,002, which the Education Department has reported is available from the State general fund surplus.

Other measures will protect the jobs of State, county and municipal officers in the armed forces and provide for appointment of temporary employes in their places, amend the State code to conform with the Federal "lame duck" amendment, appoint interim legislative committees and appropriate necessary funds for expenses incurred by the session.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.
Nov. 16, 1942

LAST SATURDAY in the Senate, the bill scheduled for consideration was what is called the "poll tax bill." When the Senate opened, only 26 Senators were present, less than a quorum. Thereupon Democratic Leader Barkley moved that the sergeant-at-arms be directed to "arrest" absent members. This led to startling headlines and radio brevities. That the whole story be understood is ital to every citizen of every State.


SULLIVAN

The poll tax is a requirement in eight States that citizens pay a small tax as a qualification for voting, usually $1 or $1.50. I have said "eight States," not "eight Southern States"—though in fact the States still keeping the poll tax at this time are Southern. But at one time the poll tax, or an equivalent requirement that the voter own taxable property, existed in practically all the older States. Some Northern States kept the poll tax, sometimes called a "head tax," until recent years. Some Northern States still require that the voter be not a pauper—they deny the vote to State charges. Gradually, such requirements have been dropped by most States. Southern States have been dropping the poll tax—Louisiana and Florida have dropped it within the past few years. Tennessee is about to drop it.

The poll tax is being abolished by local action, by the States themselves, voluntarily. By this bill, if passed, Congress would assert that the Federal Government has power to dictate qualifications for voting in any and every State, as respects voting for President, Vice President, and members of Congress. When and if a Senator from New York, for example, votes for this bill, that Senator asserts that the Federal Government has the right to fix the qualifications for voting in New York. And so as to every one of the 48 States.

AT PRESENT, every State fixes its own qualifications, and each has different qualifications. These varying qualification deal with length of residenc required, in the State, and the voting district; length o time a voter must have registered preceding the election; ability to read and write, the right of one citizen to challenge another when he appears at the polls, and other qualifications.

Fixing the qualifications for voting is the most fundamental right a State has. Once that right is taken away, a State can hardly be called a government at all. And once Congress takes away this right, it is hard to conceive any right it cannot take away. Taking this right from the States would be the beginning of a process by which the States would become little more than geographical designations, such as "New England" or "the Middle West." As it was put by Senator George of Georgia, "I do not see how in the long run the dual system of government can prevail in America if the present tendency to inavde the States shall continue."

What is at sta[illegible] in the pending bill in Congress is the existence of the States as units of government.

This would be true at any time. It is vital now for a special reason. For there is under way in America a tendency toward revolution in Government. As Senator Connally of Texas put it, "we are in a great struggle for representative Government, constitutional in form." One line along which the tendency moves is toward reduction of the power and functions of State and local Government—with corresponding enlargement of Federal power. This issue—centralization of Government at Washington—is at the very heart of the pending bill.

FOR CLARITY of thinking, and removal of prejudice, one widespread misconception should be removed. In radio news and press headlines dealing with the pending bill, the words "race" and "race discrimination" appear. Some advocates of the pending bill charge that the poll tax discriminates against Negroes. This is not true. The poll-tax laws, where they exist, apply to all. Any Negro can pay the poll tax and vote, and many do, precisely the same as whites. Such discrimination as does exist in some Southern States is not done by the poll tax, and would not be removed by the pending bill.

What is said here is necessarily brief, and omits much. It is said that opposition to the pending bill will take the form of a filibuster By whatever name, it is imperative that there be time enough and debate enough to make the country fully acquainted with the bill and its effects. The debate ought to include discussion by those Republican Senators, and Northern Democratic ones, who oppose the bill.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Pulse of Public

The constitution invites expression of opinion by its readers. This column is open for that purpose. All communications must be signed and all are subject to editing for conservation of space. Brevity makes arguments effective and impels attention.

Nov. 26, 1942

COMMENDS SENATORS FOR POLL TAX FIGHT

Editor, Constitution: May I use your Pulse of the Public to compliment our two United States senators for their stand on the poll tax bill?

I have read in your columns some condemnation of our senators for their stand and their part in the filibuster. For my part, had they not fought this bill as they did, they would not be worthy to call Georgia home and certainly not worthy to be our senators.

Personally I do not favor the poll tax and if I could pass a law, I would abolish the poll tax, have an I. Q. for all voters. Then make every one eligible, pay $25 for failing to vote in any election from justice of the peace to President.

We don't need laws to keep people from voting, and I don't think the poll tax keeps them from voting. We should have a law to make every citizen take an interest in every election.

The irony of this poll tax fight in congress is that the so-called Democrats are trying to force it down the throats of the states who have blindly voted Democratic in a block, but have never been permitted to eat at the Democratic table; we have been given the crumbs and now to show their utter contempt for us, they try to run our elections and if we ever permit it, our southern traditions will be gone forever.

When will the south wake up and become the doubtful south in national elections? Only then will we be permitted to sit at the nation table and eat as Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois eat from the national treasury.

E. J. JONES.

Atlanta. Nov. 26, 1942

WE TALK TRIVIALITIES WHILE WORLD BURNS

Editor, Constitution: The press carries the startling news that our senators are fighting like tigers over whether or not voters must pay before they can enter the polls while a world war is on all around us.

One wonders what the peoples of global war is nations think of the type of democracy we are fighting to promote all over the world. What must the Indians think of it?

The masses maybe thought that when the congress finished with the fight for pensions that all childish things had been put away. While our lads fight for democracy and the freedoms of the world this new move seems to be a bit out of place to those who think in world terms for the fundamental freedoms.

Hitler doesn't want his people to vote either. That, too, regardless of whether they pay for the privilege or not. Nov. 26 1942

What a world we live in. Discussing trivialities while we face a world conflagration!

Atlanta. W. H. FAUST.

Huntsville, Ala. Times
November 18, 1942

Inopportune Time

This is no time to raise such a controversial issue as the poll tax, which seems in a fair way of splitting the Senate, and perhaps driving a deep wedge in the Democratic party.

In a war period such as this, the poll tax issue will cause disunity; set one section of the country against another; array white against negro, and poor white against those in better circumstances.

At a time when there should be utmost unity on all internal matters, it is poor policy to drag out an issue like the poll tax, over which there is high sectional feeling, and to toss it out for acrimonious debate.

After days and weeks of filibustering, as is inevitable, if the advocates of poll tax reform persist in pressing their measure at this time, the Senate will be too torn up and distracted to consider war measures, or to get on with the prime business of winning the war.

Poll tax reform, we believe, is inevitable. It already has been adopted by some Southern states, and one or two others are on the verge of taking similar action. As the number dwindles from the eight states that are now holding out, pressure will grow greater on the states remaining to enact legislation.

Congress has no business dabbling on such state matters. They are for state, not federal, action. Even if poll tax reform were a matter for federal debate and legislation, now is not the opportune time to raise this issue.

All such controversial matters were better sidetracked for the duration of the war.

Dothan, Ala. Eagle
November 4, 1942

I have sworn upon the altar of God eternal hostility to every form of tyranny over the mind of man.—Thomas Jefferson.

Fight To The Last Ditch

The communists, the radicals, the reformers and the liberals are having great fun in Washington these days, and are determined to make the South, and perhaps the entire nation, foot the bill for their entertainment. They are prepared to force through Congress a measure which is generally recognized as the first step toward a force bill which will eliminate State's rights, rape the Constitution, abolish segregation and enforce social equality and bathe the South in another shameless era of carpetbaggery and reconstruction.

Under the prodding of an administration which seems hell-bent on humiliating the South and destroying national unity in a critical hour, the Congress is about to pass what is generally known as an anti-poll tax bill. It has already passed the House and is soon to go to the Senate, where its proponents predict easy sledding for it.

There is only one thing left for the South to do. That is to demand of Southern Senators that they talk the bill to death. Yes, talk it to death, even though important legislation having bearing on the war effort is delayed!

* * *

Many of the advocates of poll tax repeal contend that it is not designed to give the ballot to the Negro in the South, and point out that other voting restrictions remain to safeguard white supremacy at the polls. Yet the bill's most active champions are Negro lobbyists and the Society for the Advancement of Colored People.

Well do these lobbyists know that once the Federal government illegally assumes the right to change voting qualifications as set up by the various States they will contend that the government has the right to remove other barriers, such as educational and moral qualifications.

The net result—and the one which they seek—would be that in many Southern communities where Negroes outnumber whites, Negro judges would sit in the courts, Negro legislators would be sent to State legislatures, Negro sheriffs would be elected and would control all law enforcement. There would be chaos such as to make the bloodiest pages of national history turn white by comparison.

The filibuster must be used to block the passage of this anti-poll tax bill. No Southern Senator who is sincerely interested in the welfare of his constituents can refuse to hear the challenge that has been sounded or fail to heed it. Each and every one of them is on trial. Their behavior in this trying period will forever brand them for what they are.

Stand up, you gentlemen from the South, and fight this bill to its death! Do not let the radicals and reformers tear your native land to pieces! Do not permit them to use a grave national emergency to exploit your people and to condemn them to another tragic era! It is the time to fight—with courage and fortitude!

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.
Place To Begin
NOV. 24, 1942

Senator Pepper is unquestionably right in saying that the filibuster on the poll-tax bill points to a need for reforms in legislative procedure. The 41 to 37 vote against limiting debate on the anti-poll-tax bill indicates that the Senator's proposal would not have ended the gabfest in which the Senate indulged last week. Only abandonment of the bill brought the filibuster to a close. But that is no argument against tightening up the Senate's rules.

NOV. 24, 1942

Yesterday we suggested that Congress pass a resolution calling upon the poll-tax States to abolish their undemocratic restrictions on the right to vote. The Senate could make real progress toward wiping out the memory of its wartime filibuster by passing such a resolution and then proceeding to modernize its own rules. Senator Pepper has introduced a resolution that would make it possible to limit debate at any time upon the approval of a simple majority of Senators present. Perhaps approval by a majority of the entire Senate would be a more reasonable requirement. But the Senate certainly ought to take away from a one-third minority the right it now has of foisting its will upon a less voluble two-thirds.

When the Senate gets around to initiating reforms, moreover, it ought not to stop with a knockout blow to the filibuster. Indeed, the filibuster of last week developed largely because of another weakness in our political system. Undoubtedly the Pepper bill to wipe out poll-tax statutes still on the books of a few States should have taken the form of a constitutional amendment. In his article in The Post yesterday Senator O'Mahoney clearly shows that the Constitution places control over qualifications for voting in the States. If the people now desire to change that rule so far as Federal officials are concerned, the straightforward, fair and honest course is to seek amendment of the Constitution. One reason why sponsors of the anti-poll-tax bill did not invoke this method is because they were discouraged by the great difficulty of changing the Constitution by the methods now authorized.

In his book entitled "A New Constitution Now," Henry Hazlitt proposes a simpler method of securing the adoption of constitutional amendments as one of the most urgent reforms of our day. Article V, as it stands, is not only vague and ambiguous; it is also painfully slow in operation and thus encourages Congress and the Supreme Court to stretch the present language of the Constitution to the breaking point. The power of Congress to regulate interstate commerce, for example, has now been distorted so as to cover the regulation of wheat grown by a farmer to feed his own pigs. Certainly there is far less danger in liberalizing the amendatory procedure than in strained interpretations which tend to rob the language of the Constitution of all meaning.

The first step toward poll-tax reform, then—if the States still taxing the voting privilege refuse to act—is amendment of the Constitution to make constitutional changes easier. Mr. Hazlitt suggests that we adopt Australia's amendatory formula. The constitution of that country may be changed by a majority vote of both legislative chambers and ratification by a majority of voters in a majority of the States. Some modification of this formula may be desirable here. Certainly we need a new and simplified method of changing our organic law as a means of hastening desirable reforms and of discouraging the dangerous tendency of Congress to legislate without regard for constitutional restraints.

Greenwood, S. C. Index-Journa
October 15, 1942

THE FIRST HURDLE

By an overwhelming vote the national House of Representatives has "abolished" the poll tax requirement for voting in eight States. The law applies only to elections in which Federal offices are concerned.

Advocates of the proposal envision different possibilities but two of them are outspoken. One is that the colored vote in the South will be greatly increased and this will mean, for these advocates, colored members of the Congress, both Senate and House, in some of these States. Another is that it means the perpetuation of the New Deal in office for years to come.

True, these States have certain requirements for qualified electors over and above the poll tax receipt but if the Congress has the constitutional right and power to say no State can require a poll tax payment before being allowed to vote, the Congress would have the right to abolish any other requirement.

A natural presupposition would seem to be that the Supreme Court of the United States, based on its latest decisions and general attitude toward New Dealish theories would, by a majority vote, at least, approve such congressional legislation and that would be the clinching of it.

The success of the move so far and its apparent ultimate triumph must be very pleasing to Mrs. Roosevelt and Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. It is their pet project.

President Roosevelt has been more or less reticent but it is inconceivable that he would veto the bill to abolish a poll tax receipt as one of the requirements for voting, so zealously advocated by his wife.

The present move applies only to Federal offices, it should be remembered, but if the move finally accomplishes what is planned now by Mrs. Roosevelt and Secretary Walter White and others of this group, it would seem reasonable to assume that a drive to include all offices would follow. And by efforts to crash the gate in the primaries, this move is already under way.

Having seen the purposes of the advocates of this move for a long time and having done its duty in trying to open the eyes of the South, so far as this part of it goes, to what was going on, this newspaper is not now at all excited or surprised.

It awaits with equanimity future developments and expects to see quite a lot of twisting and squirming among some of our own people who "never thought" such a thing would happen.

52e-1942
Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

OPINION SPLIT ON POLL TAX ISSUE

Democratic Executive Committee Of State Is Divided

Nov. 27, 1942

A sharp difference of opinion between the women's division and the men's division of the Alabama Democratic Executive Committee concerning the long debated Pepper anti-poll tax bill, was recently revealed, Carroll Kilpatrick, special Washington correspondent for The Age-Herald and News, wrote in a dispatch from the capital.

Kilpatrick's dispatch said the divergent views of the two divisions were revealed Monday when Senator Barkley (D., Ky.) read the Senate excerpts from a letter endorsing the bill from Mrs. Albert Thomas, of Auburn, a member of the women's division of the State committee. Gessner McCorvey, of Mobile, chairman of the State Democratic Committee, had previously denounced the attempt to pass the measure.

Mrs. Emerson Endorses Bill

Senator Barkley read another letter endorsing the bill, written by Mrs. Harvey M. Emerson, of Birmingham, legislative chairman of the Alabama division of the American Association of University Women.

"I am writing to thank you for your sustained and brilliant fight to carry the anti-poll tax bill," Mrs. Thomas wrote. "The great majority of the citizens of the South support you in this fight . . . "For 10 years we have been trying to change this undemocratic law in Alabama. We urge you to continue the fight in the name of democracy."

Nov. 27, 1942

Mrs. Emerson wrote that "we are wishing you and Senator Pepper every success in the passage of this legislation. Many of us in the South are in favor of the bill to abolish the poll tax.

Written Ballot Used

"The Montevallo branch of the American Association of University Women took a written ballot on the poll tax recently. Twenty-nine stated that the question was very important, five that it was not. Two wanted the poll tax as it now stands in Alabama, two wanted state reform, five wanted abolition by state action, 19 wanted abolition of the tax by federal action, three preferred state action, but felt it would take federal action, two stated abolition by any means available and one said she hadn't studied the matter sufficiently.

"Women, probably more than other group, feel the need for poll tax elimination as a prerequisite for voting."

Nov. 29, 1942

Barkley also inserted in The Congressional Record a letter from Charles W. Edwards, of Alabama Polytechnic Institute at Auburn, congratulating him "upon insisting upon bringing the Geyer-Pepper poll tax bill to a vote at this session."

Birmingham Post
Birmingham, Alabama

POLL TAX VICTORY IS HAILED BY DIXON

Nov. 24, 1942

By United Press.

MONTGOMERY, Nov. 24.—Governor Dixon, who went to Washington to appear before a congressional committee in opposition to the anti-poll tax bill, said today of the bill's defeat:

"I think it's a great victory for constitutional government. In time to come, the balance of the nation will thank those courageous Southern senators who carried the fight. If that fight had been lost, we would soon have seen absolute Federal control of local elections, with all that implies."

Birmingham Post
Birmingham, Alabama

POLL TAX BLOC SEES VICTORY IN CLOTURE MOVE

Petition To Limit Debate Believed Step Toward Defeat Of Bill

By United Press.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 10.—Southern Senators who have been filibustering against consideration of an anti-poll tax bill predicted that Senate Democratic Leader Alben W. Barkley would file a petition for cloture—limitation of debate—during today's session.

Barkley refused to say he was circulating a petition for cloture, and would tell reporters only:

"If I were, I wouldn't say so."

Southern Senators continued to circulate reports that a move was underway by both sides which would result in abandonment of the bill during this session of Congress. The cloture petition was believed to be part of the move. There were reports that Barkley has reached agreement with those opposing the measure to permit it to be called up for consideration in order that he might file the cloture petition.

Nov. 29, 1942

12 Signatures Reported

One proponent of the bill said the petition already was being circulated and that 12 senators had signed it. Sixteen must sign the petition before it is filed with the Senate. After filing, it will lie on the table for two days, then will be called up for a vote. A two-thirds vote of the Senate is required to sustain the petition and invoke limitation of debate during which no Senator may speak on the bill for more than one hour.

Meanwhile, an unofficial poll showed at least 30 senators opposing the cloture petition, and at the same time there are some 20 senators out of town. Under those conditions, it would be impossible to obtain the 64 affirmative votes necessary to sustain the cloture petition, and Southern filibusterers were haling this as the beginning of the end for the bill.

Connally Broke Ice

The first move towards ending the filibuster came yesterday when Sen. Tom Connally, (D., Tex.), asked unanimous consent and the approval of Barkley that the opposition to the bill be withdrawn in order that it might be called up for debate, on condition that a vote on cloture be taken by 1 p. m. Saturday. He made this offer, he said, on behalf of the opposition, "who are just as anxious as anybody to get this to a vote."

Connally said he made the move only on condition that a vote be taken by Saturday on cloture, and on the further condition that if the senate refused to invoke limitation of debate, proponents of the bill abandon the measure for this session.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

SENATE REJECTS CLOTURE: BURIES BAN ON POLL TAX

Motion to Limit Debate Is Voted Down.

Nov. 24, 1942

Washington, D. C., Nov. 23 (AP).—The senate buried the poll tax bill today with a vote of 37 to 41 against limiting debate on the measure which had been filibustered since Nov. 13 by southern opponents. The proposal to limit debate needed a two-thirds vote but failed to win even a simple majority.

The bill, which would ban the payment of state poll taxes as a requirement for voting for federal offices, technically went back to the senate calendar, but its author, Sen. Claude Pepper [Dem., Fla.], acknowledged that it was dead for this session.

Pepper Asks for Rule Change.

Decrying the senate's action in rejecting a cloture motion, Pepper filed a proposal to change the rules so that a majority of the senate could forcce any bill to a vote. Pepper asserted the senate had established a precedent by which a minority could prevent the consideration of any bill against which it was prepared to filibuster.

Carrying out an agreement he made last Friday in order to obtain a vote on cloture, Democratic Leader Albin Barkley of Kentucky asked unanimous consent to lay the bill aside and take up other measures on the calendar.

This consent was forthcoming and the southern opponents of the bill triumphed in their efforts to prevent final action at this session. The measure, passed in different form by the house, will die with adjournment of congress Jan. 2. Its sponsors then will have to start all over to obtain approval by both houses.

Seldom Invoked Procedure.

The cloture vote, the fourteenth the senate has taken since adoption of the rule in 1917, was opposed by 31 Democrats and 10 Republicans, including several supporters of the bill who said they were unwilling to take such drastic action to limit debate. Voting for the motion were 21 Democrats, 14 Republicans, a Progressive and an Independent.

There never was any doubt, from the time Barkley first attempted to call up the measure, that a majority of the senate favored its passage despite the contention of opponents that the bill would invade the state's constitutional rights to fix the qualifications for voters.

Faced with this fact, senators from poll tax states raised numerous points of order which they debated at length. Finally, Barkley acknowledged in the senate that the filibusterers could talk the bill to death, so he staked the measure's fate on the cloture vote.

Birmingham Post
Birmingham, Alabama

Riled McKellar Has Word For Senator Barkley

By Scripps-Howard Alliance.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17.—Sen. Kenneth D. McKellar (D., Tenn.) has one of the hottest tempers in the Senate.

Nov. 17, 1942

So it was reported today, when he was brought in "under arrest" Saturday to attend the anti-poll tax debate, under orders from Majority Leader Barkeley (D., Ky.), the Tennessean let fly a few choice cusswords at the Kentuckian and called him a "skunk."

Whether that was the name he used or not, Senator McKellar did not remani long in his seat, which is beside that of the majority leader, when the Senate resumed yesterday. He walked back and sat alongside Sen. Tom Connally (D., Tex.), who, like all Southern senators except Mr. Barkley and Claude Pepper (D., Fla.), is fighting the bill.

Senator McKellar also asked Leslie L. Biffle, secretary to the majority, to take his name off a round-robin letter he had signed urging President Roosevelt to appoint Senator Barkley to the Supreme Court.

Columbia, S. C., State
October 14, 1942

Jefferies Speaks Against Poll Tax Measure

Washington, D. C., Oct. 13.—Appearing before a senate judiciary subcommittee today, Governor R. M. Jefferies of South Carolina declared that the poll tax as levied in his state for educational purposes did not constitute a bar to any one voting in general elections.

The South Carolina executive was speaking in opposition to the Pepper bill which would outlaw the poll tax as a prerequisite for participation in primary and federal elections.

"The poll tax" the governor said, "is levied for revenue and is not used to disfrancise any one."

It was levied, he said, on all South Carolina males from 21 to 60 years of age, at the rate of $1 annually and failure to pay was considered a violation of criminal statutes.

The money derived from the poll tax, which has been levied since 1702, he told the committee was used to aid the public schools.

REVENUE

"The poll tax is a vital part of the revenue of South Carolina schools" the governor said, explaining that approximately $294,000 was assessed in poll taxes and approximately $200,000 was collected.

In response to a question as to how many votes were generally cast in a general election in South Carolina, the governor said between 75,000 and 100,000.

"The poll tax is not what keeps them from voting" he added.

"The right to vote in a primary is not restricted by a poll tax payment?" Chairman O'Mahoney (D-Wyo) asked.

"No, sir" Jefferies replied. He explained that party rules governed the primaries.

MAYBANK

Senator Burnet R. Maybank (D-SC) told the committee the people of South Carolina felt the poll tax was "primarily a constitutional question which should not be gone into at this time."

In a lengthy statement, Governor Jefferies contended that passage of the Pepper bill would, in fact, amend the state constitution; that this time of war was no time to bring up such matters; that qualifications for suffrage "is a matter for the state ....and justly should remain so" and that "constitutional provisions requiring proof of the payment of poll taxes before electors are permitted to vote serve to make citizens respond to the needs of their government and are used in protecting the sanctity of the ballot." Also, the governor contended the tax was a revenue measure and an important phase of the state's revenue system.

"I have not been able to understand," the governor told the committee, "how intelligent people can believe that the poll tax in South Carolina is a device to disfranchise Negroes and under-privileged peoples. The poll tax has no relation whatsoever to the preventing of the exercise of the right of suffrage. . . ."

The governor showed that the poll tax is rooted in the constitution and the statutory laws of the state of South Carolina, and that the poll tax in his state dates back to 1702.

LONG IN FORCE

"The custom of levying a per capita tax on the people of South Carolina originated at a very early day," the governor told the committee. "As early as 1702 an act of the general assembly to make Charles Town defensible provided: "That the said 550 pounds per annum be raised by a poll of every man within the bounds of the town that is capable of bearing arms to pay 2[0] shillings per annum. And every single woman or widow that is a housekeeper and finds a watchman in the constable's watch to pay 20 shillings per annum."

Still sketching the history of this tax in South Carolina, the governor said:

"In 1876, Wade Hampton led the movement in South Carolina which resulted in the redemption of the state from the misrule and corruption of the carpetbaggers scalawags and Negroes and South Carolina was supposed to have completed its reconstruction period.

"However, bills like that which we are here to discuss today would lead us to believe that a beneficent (?) federal government, grown far stronger than the founding fathers ever intended, is again trying to reconstruct South Carolina by amending its state constitution on a matter of internal interest only."

FOR UNITY

At one point in that part of his statement in which he contended the pending bill is unconstitutional, the governor said:

"It would be appropriate . . . for me to appeal to this committee to leave the constitution of the United States alone now and not to suggest any amendment interfering with the internal affairs of the sovereign states . . . Our fathers tell us to let it alone. Our future prosperity and safety require that we let it alone. National unity can be promoted by letting it alone . . ."

The governor declared that "the eight poll tax states are inhabited by true Americans, willing and ready to make every sacrifice for the protection of our national existence."

At one point, Jefferies declared: "If you must bring up these things which everybody with any degree of common sense knows would produce disunity, dissention and discord . . . please postpone further discussions of such issues until enemies such as the Japs and the Germans have been disposed of."

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

POLL TAX UPHELD AS SENATE DEFEATS CLOSURE, 41 TO 37

Barkley Shelves Measure as Agreed After Losing Test on Limiting Debate

PARTY LINES SPLIT OPEN

Some in Favor of Legislation Explain They Won't Accept Any Curb on Speaking

NOV 24, 1942

By FREDERICK R. BARKLEY
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23—By a vote of 41 to 37 the Senate today rejected a motion to impose closure on debate on the anti-poll tax bill, thus ending for this Congress further consideration of a measure against which Southern Senators had filibustered for more than a week.

Eight Southern States tax the right to vote. The measure would have prohibited this policy as it applies to candidates for Federal office. The vote put the bill aside because of an agreement made with the opponents by Senator Barkley, majority leader, to shelve it for this Congress if his closure motion failed. NOV 24, 1942

A two-thirds vote was necessary to invoke closure. Had the motion carried, debate on the bill, which, technically reached the floor Saturday, would have been limited to one hour by each Senator. For seven days before the agreement with Senator Barkley was reached, the Southern filibusterers, by various parliamentary manoeuvres, had blocked even the bringing up of the bill.

Although Senators from the poll tax States alone were participants in the week-long filibuster, they were joined today in their opposition to the rarely sought closure by a score of Northern and Western members of both parties. Some explained that they were in favor of the bill, but had always been opposed to any limitation of the Senate's right to debate any issue at any length at any time.

Barkley Closes the Debate

The vote on the closure motion came by agreement an hour after the Senate met and after brief statements by various Senators.

Closing debate, Senator Barkley said he would rather make a fight for the bill and lose, as it was obvious he would, than not to make it in the hope of any reward which the Senate might give him.

In this, he plainly referred to the possibility of his nomination for the present vacancy on the Supreme Court, which the Senate would have to confirm. Last week Senator McKellar, a leader of the filibusterers, disclosed that last month he had initiated a letter to President Roosevelt, which a number of Senators had signed, urging Mr. Barkley's nomination to the court. NOV 24, 1942

But angered by the fact that the Senate, on Mr. Barkley's motion, had ordered the arrest of himself and seven other Senators for refusing to attend a session and thus create a quorum to attend to business on the poll tax bill, Mr. McKellar castigated Mr. Barkley for this "indignity," and said he had withdrawn his name from the letter. For a time it appeared as if Mr. McKellar had started a movement among his Southern colleagues to overthrow Mr. Barkley's leadership in the next Senate.

Barkley Denounces the Measure

Mr. Barkley told the Senate today that he still held to his conviction that repeal of poll taxes was essential to maintain the "deeper foundations of the Democratic party."

"It has been said by opponents," he asserted, "that this bill would destroy our party. But that party has lived through success and adversity longer than any other party, from the early days of the Republic when it was established by Thomas Jefferson. It has lived because it served the cause of the common man, and if its members now believe it can be kept alive only by taxing the right of humble men to vote, its future is dark indeed." NOV 24, 42

The Majority Leader said he sought the esteem of all his colleagues of both parties, but he would not seek it through the surrender of his convictions. The poll tax, he contended, is "a hangover from feudalism, a survivor of bourbonism."

Senator Connally, one of the opponents of the bill, asserted that apparently the people did not understand the conviction of his colleagues that it is unconstitutional. It was the clear intent of framers of the Constitution, he held, to give the States the sole right to determine the qualifications of its voters. NOV. 24, 1942

Senator Lucas, Democrat, of Illinois, said that while he favored the bill he could not vote for closure because he did not know when in the future a Senator from Illinois might be blocked in getting through a bill desired by that State.

Senator Shipstead, Republican, of Minnesota, objected to closure as a dangerous procedure, recalling that in all his years in the Senate he never had voted for such a motion and wanted to maintain this record.

Senator Reed, Republican, of Kansas, took the opposite view, announcing that he would vote for closure "because enough time already has been given to both sides," but adding that he was opposed to the bill, although in agreement with its "general principles."

Following the vote, the National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax said that the fight would be renewed in the new Congress. Today's action, it said, dashed hopes of 10,000,000 Negro and white voteless Americans for a share in our democracy.

Walter White, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said that "America today is tasting the bitter fruits of a new secession, a rebellion against constitutional government by a handful of outlaws who have successfully defied the will of the people which it was prepared to filibuster. The measure, which was passed by the House, will die with adjournment of Congress Jan. 2.

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52e-1942

Age-Herald

POLL TAX

Birmingham, Ala.

TEXAS SENATOR SPEAKS AT STATE LEGISLATURE

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Nov. 19—(AP)—Only the formality of enacting into law six emergency bills before adjournment Friday faced Alabama's special session Legislature when it recessed Thursday.

Although pressing the bills through the legislative process faster than ever before, in the memory of veteran lawmakers, the session took time out to hear Senator W. Lee O'Daniel (D., Tex.) and Representative Pete B. Jarman (D., Ala.).

Nov. 20, 1942

Both speakers said the Southern senatorial block against passage of the anti-poll tax bill now pending in Congress is determined to carry its fight to the end of the session Jan. 3 if necessary to stall passage of the bill.

"If we live and don't lose our voices by the end of the year," Senator O'Daniel declared, "that bill won't be passed."

"When the war is over," he said, "there will be another battle in the halls of state legislatures and in Congress on whether we shall have a collectivist state or return to the fundamental principles of American government."

He said there will be 'nothing gained if America wins democracy for others and loses it for Americans. Americans are fighting this war, he declared, to maintain the constitution and the American way of life.

"Bungling Bureaucracy" Cited

This way of life, he continued, is being threatened by what he termed as "bungling bureaucracy" in the national government, and added that state and federal legislation was "being eclipsed" by bureaucratic direction of American life.

O'Daniel said he believed "there is nobody in Washington big enough to tell Texans who can vote, and if I am correctly informed you members of the Alabama Legislature feel the same way."

The Texas senator said that he recommended abolition of the poll tax in Texas when he was governor of that state, but added he was "unalterably opposed to the federal government telling Texas what it should do."

He said he feared that if the American people are not vigilant governmental bureacracy will overcome their right to have their affairs run by their elected representatives.

The national government, he added, has allowed foreign "isms" and ideas to influence its governing policies and the District of Columbia "is not big enough to hold all the governmental bureaus of the federal government."

"I belong to that old Democratic national defense legislation between its January and May terms was authorized Thursday by the special session opened Monday.

The committees will be named at the January session by presiding officers of the House and Senate, and were authorized on finance and taxation, education, highways, war emergency legislation, judiciary, agriculture, health, and welfare.

Committee Arrangements Made

Arrangements for the committees were made at this session, since under a new constitutional amendment providing for biennial instead of quadrennial meetings, only formal organization work may be taken up in January.

The committees will consist of three senators and eight representatives each, and chairmen will be empowered to employ a clerk. Members will draw pay of $10 a day, but may not be paid for more than 30 days.

Gov. Dixon is expected to sign Friday the six emergency bills the special Legislature was called to enact. Each House will have to give final readings, and passage to bills from the opposite House.

Most important of the bills is one to appropriate $2,000,000 to lengthen the public school term to eight months. This sum will be increased by $107,002, which the education department has reported is available from the state general fund surplus.

Other measures will protect the jobs of state, county and municipal officials in the armed forces, and provide for appointment of temporary employes in their places, amend the state code to conform with the federal "lame duck" amendment, appoint interim legislative committees, and appropriate necessary funds for expenses incurred by the session.

Argus

St. Louis, Missouri

DEMOCRACY FAILS

Under a wartime test, democracy failed to muster enough votes to stand up before the court of the highest lawmaking body of the land. Democracy "went down fightiing" under the onslaught of the enemy headed by a bloc of senators from the eight poll tax states, led by Senator Connally of Texas.

The news of the defeat of the anti-poll tax bill in the Senate Monday was received with mixed emotions. Our first impulse was to condemn the southern bloc for its backwardness, with the strongest language at our command. But upon second thought, we realized that it may be better, after all, to have the mask removed from that body as a whole, so that the public may have a little more light on a dark subject. Let the public see a little more of the workings of the so-called democracy among the men who rule our government.

Of course, there will be excuses upon excuses, and alibis upon alibis, and pillow fights upon pillow fights, but no longer is there any reason for the public to be deceived by these things. We can put our finger on the spot. The United States Senate is responsible for the DEFEAT OF THE POLL TAX BILL. The so-called filibuster is a cloak or subterfuge. Getting down to "brass tacks", everybody knows that eight senators represent a very, very small minority among ninety six senators. To allow six or eight to rule is only to admit that the whole body lacks the courage and statesmanship necessary to do its plain duty.

Nov. 27, 1942

Of course, it is nothing new in the national lawmaking body for the ten or eleven southern states to control certain legislation, especially if it affects the Negroes or labor. The South controlled the acts of Congress on these two matters for forty years during which time the Republican party was in power. If the Democrats have disfranchised us, the Republicans have stood supinely by and allowed it to be done—just as the majority of senators, both Democrats and Republicans, have stood by and allowed the brave men in uniform to be disfranchised through trickery of the vilest sort.

Unfortunately, the present members of the Senate are still living in the horse and buggy days. They have never been awakened to the fact that a war is in progress, which is fast changing the thinking of the world. They do not realize that the change in thinking is followed by a changing world.

Let congress wake up or the people will—and when they do it will be too bad for the bunch of hypocrites and deceivers who play with the lives of the men in the armed forces to further their own political ambitions.

Behind the Poll Tax Fight

the Worker

THE poll tax fight now raging in the United States Senate is fast uncovering the war-sabotaging motives in the poll tax fight.

For example, it is getting very clear that not only are the handful of ranting, poll taxers busy defending their ancient privileges; **but they are getting the underhanded support of a large group of defeatist Hoover Republicans, as well as that of many politics--as-usual groups who are afraid to open up democracy in the South.**

Nov. 22/1942

The poll tax system is robbing millions of small southern farmers of the right to vote; it is keeping millions of Negro voters away from the ballot, too.

N.Y., N.Y.

As a result, the appeasers and reactionaries in Congress have a strong basis from which to operate, so long as they can rely on this "poll tax bloc" **which can defy the Administration and harm the war effort without having to face an angry electorate.**

In short, the poll tax fight is not merely a fight to remove ancient injustices. It is a fight to remove one of the greatest obstacles to national unity in time of war.

Behind the handful of filibustering poll tax Senators, there is looming up the Hoover Republicans who are willing to use the poll taxers as agents in their fight against the war powers and policies of President Roosevelt.

That is why leading Republican writers, like Mark Sullivan of the New York Herald Tribune, and why the New York Times Washington Bureau columnist, Arthur Krock, are vigorously defending the outrageous sabotage now going on in the Senate.

The real target of the poll taxers and their undercover Republican allies in the Senate is President Roosevelt.

The same desire to hamper the war effort which animates the Republican-Democratic Senators balking the anti-Poll Tax Bill also animates the House Ways and Means Committee in its week-end refusal to grant Roosevelt's request for necessary war powers to move men and materials in and out the country.

Thus, the poll tax fight is only the symbol of a larger fight. This is the struggle between those who want to hang onto old privileges, those who want to throw monkey wrenches into the war machinery and those Americans who insist that whatever is needed for victory comes first.

The poll tax fight is, therefore, not only the fight of those who wish to bring democracy to the millions of Southern white farmers and Negroes who cannot vote today. It is the fight of every patriotic American, regardless of class or party, who wants to unite the nation for crushing the nation's mortal enemies. Every American has his duty to perform in this win-the-war political battle.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

The Poll Tax—A Suggestion

FROM the poll tax controversy two ideas emerge about which the American people can agree and about which they want to do something. One is that filibustering is a tactical move that settles nothing. The other is that the great majority of the American people, however much they may differ as to the way of getting rid of the poll tax, regard it as out of date and out of place in twentieth century America.

Nov. 23, 1942

It would be unfortunate if the only result of the debate and discussion of the poll tax in Congress should be the shelving of the proposal to require its elimination in congressional elections, not by a majority vote but by a minority filibuster.

The Post has opposed on constitutional grounds the proposal under debate. But it has equally opposed the attempt to kill it by a minority filibuster.

We appeal both to the proponents and opponents of congressional action to eliminate the poll tax in congressional elections and unite in action which will commend itself to the great mass of American people who believe in constitutional government and yet want the Congress to go on record against the poll tax.

We propose a joint resolution of the two houses of the Congress declaring that the poll tax is an undemocratic restriction on the right to vote and appeal to those States to take prompt action to repeal the tax as a prerequisite to voting in *any* election.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
November 24, 1942

Now that the U. S. Senate has ended its horseplay about a poll tax proposal that the vast majority of senators knew to be wholly unconstitutional and designed purely as political pap for racial agitators in the East and Middle-West, perhaps this august body can get back to the business of doing its part to win the war.

Atlanta, Ga., World
November 20, 1942

Three Judges Hear White Primary Case

FORT WORTH, Texas—(ANP)—Attorney Thurgood Marshall, chief of the NAACP legal staff, argued the Texas white primary case before three judges of the circuit court of appeals, Thursday, and was closely queried on the mirets of the petition.

The suit grew out of the practice of election judges in systematically barring Negroes from the poll on the grounds that the Democratic party is a political club for white persons only.

Among the many questions hurled at the noted lawyer was one asking if election judges were state officers. Judge Henderson asked if the Democratic party had paid the expenses of the primary and if the appellant was seeking to overrule the decision in the Grovey vs. Townsend case, in which the supeme court held that the Democratic party was a private party and could bar Negroes from the primary.

The jurist also asked if it would not be the same as abolishing the primary if anybody could vote in the Democratic primary. The issue of whether or not the Classic case applied to the present came up for discussion, with Judge Henderson expressing the opinion that the decision worked a hardship upon the south where they were only the Democratic party functioning.

Several Negroes from Dallas, Tyler, Houston, and Little Rock, Ark., were present in the courtroom while the hearing was being conducted.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

ONE WORD MORE

By RALPH McGILL

POLL TAXES I am very hopeful that the southern senators, now opposing the poll tax bill, will be successful in their fight only because the motives behind the bill are probably the most sordid and hypocritical ever introduced into the senate chamber.



There is back of it that group of Negroes, of which Walter White is typical; a few radical Communists, and a number of sincere persons. Walter White long has been the worst sort of leader any fraction of the Negro people could have, because he is, in my opinion, vain, personally and politically ambitious, and very much an officious show-off. His contacts mostly are white contacts. When he does deign to drop in on the Negro leaders who work at being leaders out of a sincere desire to advance their race, he leaves them as hurriedly as he can, going back to New York to term them "Uncle Tom" Negroes because they aren't political exhibitionists such has he.

The poll tax has no business in a democracy and ought to be removed, but only—in my opinion—if you find some literacy standard to replace it.

It was established, I guess, to prevent the Negro from voting. It prevents about twice as many white men from voting as it does Negroes in Georgia, so the original purpose is lost.

I am, I guess, one of those old-fashioned persons who believes that democracy is endangered by ignorance, and I therefore do not believe the right to vote should be tossed as one would toss scraps to the dogs. It is the highest privilege of a citizen and ought to be so regarded. So, if you ask me if I am in favor of abolishing the poll tax I will say "no," if that is all you have to ask. If you ask me if I am in favor of abolishing the poll tax and substituting some other plan which will enable literate persons to vote, I will say "yes."

TO BE WORKED OUT I don't know what sort of plan. I wish I did.

I do know that if the poll tax is abolished there will be substituted some hasty, ill-considered literacy test which will be more abused than is the poll tax.

So, I get extremely sick of these bi-annual, before-election bills to abolish the poll tax. It comes in with the righteous bleat about democracy tied with it, but the hand is the hand of Esau. There isn't an ounce of democracy in the powers promoting the bill.

I'd like to see the southern states, which have the poll tax, get rid of it by working out, intelligently, something to take its place so that the right to vote is not the most valueless privilege of citizenship, open to every illiterate lout who may be bought with a snort of booze or a dollar bill for each marked ballot.

It would not encourage me about democracy to have 200,000 or more ready-made corrupted votes added to the ballot box of the state.

So, I hope the southern senators will hang in there and fight. I know that the motives of some of them are not of the highest. I am under no illusions about that.

But I do know they are better motives than those of a gang of manipulators and professional ranters who are behind the bill.

About half the southern states do not have the poll tax, so it is ridiculous to assert it is a necessity. It just happens those states are in better position to do without it, and most of them have literacy tests. But the odd thing is that it has not helped their democracy a bit.

Nor has it increased the number of voters.

North Carolina, and Kentucky, turn up with about as many odd characters in office as do we.

Removing the poll tax in Georgia, for instance, would strengthen immeasurably the hands of the demagogues.

I will agree that the poll tax has no place, but I do insist there should be something in its place which is put there for the protection of democracy and not for revenue reasons or for undemocratic purposes.

So, I say again, I hope the senators will stay in there and fight.

They ought to have the help of every decent Republican, fearless enough to fight that gang behind the bill.

FEDERAL CONTROL I think, too, that Senators George and Russell, of this state, are entirely correct in saying that if the bill passes there will be set up another bureau to "supervise" elections when there is a federal official to be elected.

That would be most understandable. I am no states' rights fanatic. Most of the stuff about states' rights is pure bunk.

But I do believe in local government. It is the basis of democracy.

We don't want any federal bureau running elections in any state.

Only a vicious politician would have put such a bill before the senate, with such backing, at this time. No patriot would try, taking advantage of the war, and the absence of soldiers, to try and put over something which doesn't come in with honest hands.

Well, I had promised to say something about art week in our town. I hope you will go out to the High Museum and see what we have in Atlanta; interest yourself in the teaching and in the opportunities for art. It is most worth while.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

NAACP BLASTS DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION

Asks U.S. Court Reversal Of Previous Verdict In Controversy

FORT WORTH, Texas.—National spotlight fell this week on the age-old controversy of the Negro's right to vote when N.A.A.C.P. Special Counsel Thurgood Marshall appealed to the U. S. Fifth Circuit court to reverse the lower court's decision in the case of Lonnie E. Smith against S. E. Allwright, election judge and James J. Liuzza, associate election judge, forty-eighth precinct of Harris county.

A large crowd, mostly Negroes, was present to hear the arguments of Marshall and the counter arguments of Glenn A. Perry of Houston, attorney for the Democratic party.

Marshall charged the Democratic party with a "loose-jointed organization with no constitution or by-laws.

"The only resolution we've been able to find that they've ever passed," Marshall said, "is the one against the Negro."

Marshall said the Democrats let every white citizen vote in the Democratic primaries, whether Democrat, Republican, Socialist or Communist.

"By refusing to let the Negro vote in the primary," he said, "the Democrats cut the Negro out of voting entirely because the primary is tantamount to election."

Smith charged the election judges with unlawfully denying him and other qualified Negro voters the right to vote the Democratic primary election in Texas on July 27, 1940, and August 24, 1940, "solely because of race and color."

He sought $5,000 damage and declaratory judgment permitting permitting him and other Negroes to participate in future Democratic primary elections in Harris county.

A brief amicus curiae (friend of the court) introduced by attorneys for the American Civil Liberties Union, argued that "any arbitrary and discrimination restriction on the use of the ballot, particularly where it is based on race, creed or color," is viewed as an impediment to the democratic process, and asked that the circuit court reverse the decision of the lower court.

Asking the same from the circuit court in last week's hearing was the National Lawyers' Guild, which entered the case also as a friend of the court.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

ORCHIDS INSTEAD OF BISCUITS

Senator Lee O'Daniel's appearance before the joint session of the legislature Thursday began as a lark but ended with sincerely rendered applause. Most of those present had expected a vaudeville show, received instead a scholarly, able discussion of the current drift of government as practiced in the United States today.

Before the Texas solon had progressed five minutes into his discourse, Alabama senators and representatives were cocking their ears, applauding regularly, and agreeing for the most part with the senator's neatly expressed sentiments. Their former opinions of the gentleman, who is frequently referred to as "Pass-the-biscuits Pappy," quickly changed; and by the time the speaker concluded it was conceded that he was no hill-billy whooper but rather a student of government who has plenty on the ball.

Applause rocked the house chamber when Senator O'Daniel expressed his view that America's 40-hour week—when our enemies are working 60 or 70—should be junked for the duration. Cheers and solid hand-clapping also greeted the Texan's declaration that, if southern senators' voices hold out, the anti-poll tax legislation will founder in the U. S. Senate.

The speaker described in some detail the Texas law, which he personally steered into the statutes while governor, making it a felony to use force or the threat of force in connection with labor disputes. Alabamians learned with interest of the benefits which had accrued to Texas and Texans since the passage of this legislation.

Senator O'Daniel's views on Washington bureaucracy and the dangers of centralized government struck many harmonious chords in the minds of his Alabama listeners, all of whom were urged to put on their thinking caps as quickly as possible and keep them on both for the duration and after peace arrives. He denounced the heretofore popular "do nothing" attitude which, in his opinion, is responsible for the "sleek and shrewd labor bosses" and other perpetrators of governmental monstrosities.

While answering his own question: "What are we fighting for?" the Texan pointed out that America stood in danger of losing true democracy herself while helping to win it for others. He pleaded for all-out war now and an all-out return to the real American way of life afterwards. Alabama applause provided a resounding amen!

Chandler Blocks Vote On Gag Rule

Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.

Fears Deal Might Kill Anti-Poll Tax Bill

Picture on Picture Page.

Washington, Nov. 19 (AP)—Filibustering Southerners and administration Senators almost got together today for a showdown vote on the anti-poll tax bill, but Senator Chandler (D., Ky.) upset the applecart, fearing their plan would be the death of the measure.

The showdown would have come, under plans which Senators Barkley (D., Ky.) and Connally (D., Texas) worked out after preliminary sparring, on a vote Monday on the question of invoking cloture rule limiting debate to one hour per senator. A two-thirds majority of those voting would be required to impose the rule.

Nov. 20, 1942

Chandler Objects.

Connally agreed that the Southerns would permit the vote to be taken and Barkley agreed that if the debate limitation was voted down there was no use going on because he was convinced the Southerners had the power to filibuster the measure to death with the end of this Congress in January.

Just as it seemed likely this agreement would be accepted, Chandler jumped to his feet and objected to the request, which required unanimous consent. He was not going to be a party, Chandler said, to establishing a precedent which might require every author of a bill to invoke the drastic cloture rule to obtain action on his measure.

Barkley Is Irked.

Evidently irked at Chandler's interference, Barkley sought to fix the time for voting by an informal agreement but Senator McKellar (D., Tenn.) insisted upon adhering strictly to the rules.

Barkley then announced that the Senate would meet in an unusual session Saturday, as well as tomorrow, and immediately began circulation of a cloture petition which requires sixteen signatures before it can be filed.

The cloture petition could not be filed, however, until Southerners lifted their filibuster to permit the bill to be brought officially before the Senate. They have prevented this for six legislative days by filibustering.

Against Dictation.

Connally told reporters that an effort might be made tomorrow to work out an informal agreement for a cloture vote Monday. Chandler served notice that he would block any formal agreement by objection.

Chandler said he was unwilling for opponents of a measure to dictate the terms under which it would be brought before the Senate.

"I am not going to be a party to letting them say, 'Yes, you can bring your bill before the Senate. But before you do that you have to do these certain things which will end in killing the bill,'" he declared.

Bilbo Goes Ahead.

"If they are enjoying their filibuster, let them go along with it. They are not going to establish any precedents of that kind in the Senate."

Connally said it ought to be noted that the filibustering Southerners had made the first move for a decisive vote. They had no doubt, he added, that this vote would be the means of killing the bill, which would ban poll tax payments as a qualification for voting.

After Chandler blocked the proposed agreement, Senator Bilbo (D. Miss.), who had held the floor all day, resumed a droning discussion of the bill and other topics that come to his mind.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.



THIS MORNING

by JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES, II

"Is this a dagger that I see before me?"

* * *

"I don't think Hitler has any idea of killing himself," writes Mrs. R. G. Toler from Columbia, S. C., "but I hope you will go on writing about it because everything you have written a lot about in this war so far has eventually happened." It is nice of Mrs. Toler to overlook that embarrassing incident last Summer when we wrote and wrote about how Bastille Day was going to be the signal for a French uprising timed to a British invasion—and absolutely nothing happened.

* * *

Prominent among those who owe Cordell Hull and his State Department an apology is The New Republic—and people who get all their thoughts from its brightly planning pages. The lesson for The New Republic and the capital "L" Liberals is that sometimes it is necessary to wait in order to make sure of getting what you are really after.

Nov. 19, 1942

* * *

"Regardless of what other noble purposes we have in the war," thinks the liberal (small "l") Anniston Star, "we must bear in mind that main purpose of preserving civilization. It is not a war to improve civilization, but to save it." Amen and amen. There is bitter disagreement among Americans and all others on the Allied side as to what should be the basis of a better civilization. But there is unanimity on the need of winning the war. Many of us think with Cordell Hull that the great thing civilization is going to need for improvement is more freedom. Many think with Mr. Wallace that the great thing is more planning and control.

* * *

If the Democratic party does indeed go to pieces, as some observers are predicting, history should not forget to put a portion of the blame on those blind ones who said the mid-term elections of 1942 had no meaning.

* * *

Those who are crying a plague "on both your houses" at the poll tax disputants in the Senate and demanding that the disgraceful show be called off by both sides—should say how both sides can stop at once. If one side stops the other side wins. It is necessary to call shots in damning this debate. In our opinion, the more deserving thing to shoot is the spirit of infinite domestic crusade in wartime which has brought about this attempt to disturb a status quo involving bitterly irreconciliable points of view.

* * *

A grand old man we hope to meet some day is James Madison Pearson, of Alexander City, head of the schools there for 55 years. The place was called Youngville when he came in 1887. The athletic stadium and the football field bear his name, as does the Bible room at the First Methodist Church, where he has taught for years. He was Grand Master of the Masons of Alabama from 1927 to 1929.

* * *

From the Rev. Phillip Fitts in 1873 to the Rev. John Carlton Turner in 1942 goes the History of the Church of the Advent which Alabama's famed Mittie Owen McDavid has written. The most complete history of any institution in Birmingham, her forthcoming volume is being called, but even more valuable than its completeness will be the imagination, talent and love Mrs. McDavid will surely have put into it. A history of the Church of the Advent is necessarily a history of Birmingham, too, for it was within 90 days of the granting of the city's charter on Dec. 19, 1871, that the Elyton Land Company deeded to the Protestant Episcopal Church in Diocese of Alabama the land where the present church stands. Of special interest to us in the prospect of this book will be a chapter covering principal events in the life of the Diocese of Alabama which has been written by Montgomery's Algernon Blair. In addition to being one of the outstanding laymen of the church in Alabama, Algernon Blair is our idea of one of the most sensitive, responsive and high-minded gentlemen who ever became a great business man. We have been waiting a long time to say it about him.

* * *

"Inspired by the scrap jingles which appeared in your column a few weeks ago the pupils of the Bellamy School, ages from 6 to 11, have composed quite a few equally good or better," challenges Principal Lottie L. Hood from Bellamy. Better is the word, Miss Hood. Here are three:

"I found a lot of scrap iron.
I sold it in a deal
To make old Mussolini
And Adolf Hitler squeal."

Old Hirohito
Sent to Bellamy for some scrap,
All of us together
Gave him a great big slap."

"Little bits of scrap iron,
Rubber, rags and rope,
Will make old Adolf Hitler
Look like just a dope . . ."

Filibuster Defeats Foes Of Poll Tax

Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.

Barkley Asks Senate to Act To Kill Bill

Nov. 21, 1942

By ROBERT L. RIGGS.
The Courier-Journal Washington Bureau.

Washington, Nov. 20.—Senate supporters of the anti-poll tax bill threw in the sponge late today and admitted they have been defeated by a seven-day filibuster by Southern Democrats.

At the request of Senator Alben W. Barkley, the Senate agreed to a course of procedure which guarantees no action will be taken on poll taxes during the rest of this session of Congress, which ends January 3.

Cloture Vote Scheduled.

Opposing forces in the fight agreed that the Senate will vote Monday on applying the rule of cloture, which is the only parliamentary procedure which can break a filibuster.

When the motion to invoke cloture is defeated—both sides agree that it will be defeated—Senator Barkley will lay the poll tax bill aside, with a promise not to take it up again this session. If the proposal is renewed in the new Congress, it will have to start all over again through the legislative machinery which kept it bottled up in a House committee for two years.

Although more than two-thirds of the Senators are believed to favor the bill, there are two reasons why that number cannot be mustered in support of cloture Monday. One is that many Senators are opposed to curtailing debate under any circumstances. Another is that a tacit agreement has been reached between the Southerners and several Republicans who are for the anti-poll tax bill.

Wage-Hour Repeal Sought.

This agreement provides that the Republicans and Southern Democrats shall co-operate during the new Congress in efforts to repeal such New Deal legislation as the wage-hour law and the Wagner labor act. This represents no sacrifice on the part of the Southerners, because they are, with two or three exceptions, opposed to such laws anyway.

In asking proponents of the bill to agree to the procedure which insures its death during this session, Senator Barkley said:

"This bill cannot be brought to a vote by any method. Any one who pretends otherwise is deluding only himself. I feel that I have done my duty in trying to bring it to a vote. I don't think that any supporter of the bill has a right to complain."

Senator George W. Norris, Nebraska liberal who, in the last of his many Senate battles, had worked diligently to break the filibuster, was not satisfied with the agreement. It is known that

A similar effort to dispose of would set a precedent under made by Barkley.

rt to dispose of would set a precedent under made by Barkley.
eated yesterday which the sponsor of any bill
. B. Chandler of would have to agree in advance
ed. He objected to kill it before he could bring
e proposal had about a cloture motion.
by Senator Tom Chandler did not object today
as, leader of the because, he said, such procedure
was proper when made by Barkley as the sponsor of the bill. The
when Senator A. B. Chandler objected. Kentucky objected.
the position that sponsor really is Senator Claude
then because the Pepper of Florida, but the motion
been advanced by Senator Tom Connally's request
Connally of Texas, to bring it before the Senate was
filibuster.
Chandler took the
approval of Connall

Earlier Effort Failed.

meet early in the morning and late at night in order to wear out the Southerners.

Most of the filibusters are born, as this anti-poll tax fight was, of politics. The bill was not intended to be passed; there are grave doubts of its constitutionality. It was intended to get votes for the Republicans. And a war is no time for politics.

Columbia, S. C. State
November 25, 1942

A CONSTITUTIONAL VICTORY.

An analysis of the poll tax vote gives comfort to those who still believe in constitutional government.

As has been said before by this paper, the issue in Washington was not one of the Negro's voting or not voting but simply one of whether or not we were to adhere to the Constitution. Again this paper emphasizes that in its opinion no Negro man is barred from voting because it is necessary for him to pay a $1 poll tax, and, of course, it does not affect the vote of the Negro women, who, like white women, are not required to pay the tax.

The cloture motion not only failed to get the necessary two-thirds but it lacked five votes of a simple majority.

Who were these 41 who voted against the gag rule? Thirty-one of them were Democrats, ten of them Republicans.

Who voted for cloture? There were 21 Democrats, 14 Republicans, one Progressive and one Independent.

Pepper and Barkley, as we expected, stood out like sore thumbs among the Democrats who joined in this very apt reminder, of the old Force bill, but we were a bit surprised to see Bennett Clark in the list. As to Republicans, they voted pretty well as we anticipated, but of Senator Taft we would say that had his distinguished father been doing the voting instead of him the Taft name would have been in the right column.

Now who were the men who joined with Southern senators to make up the 31 Democrats? Bunker of Nevada, Chavez of New Mexico, Clark of Idaho, Gerry of New York, Gillette of Iowa, Lucas of Illinois, O'Mahoney of Wyoming, Wheeler of Montana and both of the senators from Maryland, Tydings and Radcliffe, whose state is technically Southern, because it is below Mason and Dixon's line. Republicans against cloture were Aiken, Austin, Johnson of California, Langer, McNary, Nye, Shipstead, Shott, Thomas of Idaho and White, whose states are scattered throughout the North and West. Looking further, in the pairs, it is found that Holman of Oregon and McCarran of Nevada were also among those against cloture.

While the vote was not strictly a poll tax or anti-poll tax roll call, and some of those against cloture would favor the poll tax bill if it were presented on its own merits, the fact remains that the result was an encouraging victory for constitutional law.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
November 22, 1942

Republican View Of Poll Tax Bill

By MARK SULLIVAN
In New York Herald Tribune

Last Saturday in the Senate the bill scheduled for consideration was what is called the poll-tax bill. When the Senate opened only 26 Senators were present, less than a quorum. Thereupon Democratic Leader Barkley moved that the Sergeant at Arms be directed to "arrest" absent members. This led to startling headlines and radio brevities. That the whole story be understood is vital to every citizen of every State.

The poll tax is a requirement in eight States that citizens pay a small tax as a qualification for voting, usually $1 or $1.50. I have said "eight States," not "eight Southern States"—though in fact the States still keeping the poll tax at this time are Southern. But at one time the poll tax, or an equivalent requirement that the voter own taxable property, existed in practically all the older States. Some Northern States kept the poll tax, sometimes called a "head tax," until recent years. Some Northern States still require that the voter be not a pauper—they deny the vote to State charges. Gradually, such requirements have been dropped by most States. Southern States have been dropping the poll tax—Louisiana and Florida have dropped it within the past few years. Tennessee is about to drop it.

The poll tax is being abolished by local action, by the States themselves, voluntarily. By this bill, if passed, Congress would assert that the Federal Government has the power to dictate qualifications for voting in any and every State, as respects voting for President, Vice-President, and members of Congress. When and if a Senator from New York, for example, votes for this bill, that senator asserts that the Federal Government has the right to fix the qualifications for voting in New York. And so as to every one of the 48 States.

At present, every State fixes its own qualifications, and each has different qualifications. These varying qualifications deal with length of residence required, in the State, and in the voting district; length of time a voter must have registered preceding the election; ability to read and write; the right of one citizen to challenge another when he appears at the polls; and other qualifications.

Fixing the qualifications for voting is the most fundamental right a State has. Once that right is taken away, a State can hardly be called a government at all. And once Congress takes away this right, it is hard to conceive any right it cannot take away. Taking this right from the States would be the beginning of a process by which the States would become little more than geographical designations, such as "New England" or "the Middle West." As it was put by Senator George of Georgia, "I do not see how in the long run the dual system of government can prevail in America if the present tendency to invade the States shall continue."

What is at stake in the pending bill in Congress is the existence of the States as units of government.

This would be true at any time. It is vital now for a special reason. For there is under way in America tendency toward revolution in government. As Senator Connally, of Texas, put it, 'We are in a great struggle for representative government, constitutional in form." One line along which the tendency moves is toward reduction of the power and functions of State and local government — with corresponding enlargement of Federal power. This issue—centralization of government at Washington—is at the very heart of the pending bill.

For clarity of thinking and removal of prejudices, one widespread misconception should be removed. In radio news and press headlines dealing with the pending bill, the words "race" and 'race discrimination" appear. Some advocates of the pending bill charge that the poll tax discriminates against Negroes. This is not true. The poll-tax laws, where they exist, apply to all. Any Negro can pay the poll tax and vote, and many do, precisely the same as whites. Such discrimination as does exist in some Southern States is not done by the poll tax, and would not be removed by the pending bill.

What is said here is necessarily brief, and omits much. It is said that opposition to the pending bill will take the form of a filibuster. By whatever name, it is imperative that there be time enough and debate enough to make the country fully acquainted with the bill and its effects. The debate ought to include discussion by those Republican senators, and northern Democratic ones, who oppose the bill.

Atlanta, Ga Journal
November 26, 1942

Crackerland
In Washington

Says Senator Pepper Will Fail in Revision Effort

By RALPH SMITH

Washington, D. C., Nov. 26.

DOLLAR-A-YEAR men have been credited with having "Seven Ages," which provokes a wag to catalogue them, as follows:

He is admired.
He is inspired.
He is hired.
He's mired.
He's tired.
He's fired.
He is retired.

And from a similar source comes a definition of a conference of bureaucratic officials, who, singly, can do nothing, but who, together, can decide that nothing can be done.

Useless Effort

Senator Pepper's agitation for a revision of the rules of procedure on the Senate that would facilitate the gagging of the members is a futile and useless expenditure of energy, in the opinion of his colleagues. He has less chance of pressing such a restriction of free speech through the Senate than met his efforts to pass his legislation to revise the constitutions of these States that make payment of poll tax a prerequisite to voting.

The amendment proposed by Pepper naturally was referred to the Committee on Rules, not one single Democratic member of which favors such a drastic change in the rules of procedure. It is probable, though not confirmed, that several of the Republican members of the committee entertain similar objections.

Pepper, by the way, isn't a member of the Rules Committee, but this doesn't preempt the probability that he will be given a hearing, if he asks it. But there'll be no hurry about it, in the first place, and once a hearing is held the committee is unlikely ever to take any definite action.

The Floridian might move to discharge the committee, but that would boot him nothing—probably not more than one vote, his own!

But assuming—just assuming—for the sake of the argument that the astute and industrious Pepper gets the rule he asks—gets it out of the committee—he could never bring it before the Senate. Certainly he would be denied unanimous consent, and if he should enter a motion to take it up, why, he'd precipitate another losing fight. The same forces that blocked the poll tax bill can be relied upon to block any laxing of the rules calculated to facilitate adoption and application of a gag rule.

Controversy Worthwhile

The controversy provoked by the poll tax legislation, while it engendered bitterness, inflicted wounds, reopened old sores, wasn't futile. It served a good purpose, and should save much time in the next decade, more or less.

The trouncing administered to advocates of poll tax repeal laid a ghost that has stalked the corridors of the Capitol for many years—a stalking ghost, brother, supported by selfishness, insincerity and so disguised as to fan racial and sectional prejudices by means of artful, studied deceit.

The country has been told time and time again that the poll tax is a device employed in the Southern states—eight of them—to disfranchise the Negro. You, too, may have heard it so often that you believed it, yet the allegation is without foundation in fact.

The poll tax in the South, just as in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, applies to whites and blacks alike. It does not discriminate against the Negro. In Georgia there are uncounted thousands of white persons who, failing to pay their poll tax, are denied the right of suffrage. Similarly, that is true in Texas, Tennessee, Alabama, South Carolina, Mississippi and so forth.

And there are many Negroes who pay their poll taxes and who do not register and vote. In Chatham County, for instance, only 19 per cent of the Negroes who pay qualify to vote through registration.

It is hooey and fraud of the rankest to contend that the poll tax is a device aimed at the Negroes.

Federal Election Bureau

It is the motive behind the agitation as much as it is the principle involved that arouses and cements opposition to the Pepper proposal—not Senator Pepper's motive, perhaps, but the motive of others who seem determined to foist federal election control upon the people of the country.

Should Congress repeal the poll tax laws of the States that make payment a prerequisite to voting, and the repealer be sustained by the Supreme Court, it follows, just as night follows day, that the next move would be the passage of a federal law setting up a federal bureau of elections to supervise elections.

And such a bureau as it would be isn't difficult to picture in light of other federal bureaus that have been set up in Washington to regulate and control the life and habits of the people. There'd be a flock of federal inspectors for every voting precinct, just to see that the balloting proceeded in accordance with federal laws.

Happily, I repeat, the likelihood of such drastic and summary legislation is no longer imminent. As I was saying, the beating the repealers have taken in the Senate probably will stay similar action for a full decade. The Republicans, if and when they gain control, aren't likely to attempt to enact such objectionable legislation.

Columbia, S. C. Record
November 27, 1942

FILIBUSTERS

Of filibusters it might be said, as President Theodore Roosevelt used to say of trusts, that there are good ones and bad ones.

A good or justifiable filibuster is one designed to prevent hasty or obviously improper action, or to awaken public opinion to the fundamental issues involved. Such a filibuster would confine itself to those issues, not merely obstruct by irrelevant and time-wasting devices.

Many of the "liberals," outraged at the senate filibuster which finally killed the anti-poll tax bill on Monday, would applaud a filibuster to prevent enactment, in an atmosphere of hysteria, of a bill to shoot all Communists at sunrise or one to forbid all strikes. As a matter of fact, most of the "liberals" of 20 years ago endorsed the filibuster of 1922 which prevented the Republican majority of the time from enacting a bill for questionable subsidies to shipping and ship-building corporations.

The Treaty of Versailles, including membership in the League of Nations, was really defeated in the senate by a kind of filibuster. The treaty opponents played for time. The first thing the senate foreign relations committee did with the treaty was to have all of it read aloud—a performance which required two weeks, with few of the committee members present to listen. Then lengthy hearings were held. When the treaty finally got to the floor of the senate, it was debated at length, with the same ground covered over and over again. The senate did not take a vote until more than four months after President Wilson had submitted the treaty for ratification. By that time American public opinion had set in definitely against the treaty, or at least against joining the league without reservations.

However, most filibusters are not of this sort. They are designed primarily to prevent a substantial majority in the senate from out-voting a determined minority. Sometimes it may be a minority of one. Back in 1903 Senator ("Pitchfork Ben") Tillman forced the senate to agree to a pay claim of his state, South Carolina, which the senate had previously found unjustified. The senator threatened to read all of Byron's Childe Harold and other poems aloud, day after day. In 1913 Senator Stone of Missouri used a similar threat in order to get approval of a $50,000 appropriation for public buildings in St. Louis.

Filibusters today can occur only in the senate. The house rules provide for limitation of debate, while in the senate debate, so-called, may be unlimited, even irrelevant, unless cloture is applied. It is only on rare occasions that the senate will apply cloture in order to limit debate and thus assure a vote. In fact, cloture has been attempted only 13 times since provision was made for it in 1917, and it has been actually applied only four times.

The reason is that most senators, even those out of sympathy with a current filibuster, zealously cherish their right of unlimited debate. They never know when they may want to filibuster, themselves. Also, if a filibuster creates dissension in one political party, the other is delighted to see the filibuster continue.

For instance, in 1938 the senate had before it the anti-lynching bill which the house had passed by better than a two to one vote. If a vote could have been obtained in the senate, the bill would have been passed by a coalition of Republicans and Democrats from the North and West. So Southern senators went into a filibuster to prevent a vote from being taken. After six weeks of debate, with more to come, they succeeded in having the anti-lynching bill laid aside.

Toward the end of the filibuster, two attempts were made to apply cloture. Each failed to get even a majority, with two-thirds necessary. Although almost all of the Republicans professed to support the bill, and although 10 out of 14 of them voted against laying the bill aside, 12 out of 13 Republican senators voted against applying cloture the first time, and 10 out of 13 the second time.

The point was that the Republicans expected to gain support from Negro voters by the failure of the Democratic majority to put the anti-lynching bill through. The Democrats accused the Republicans of playing politics. The Republicans accused the Democrats of playing politics in making no real effort to break the filibuster by having the senate

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Knoxville Tenn. Journal
November 23, 1942

Paul Mallon

Poll Tax Fight Was Pointless Affair

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WASHINGTON—From the galleries, the Senate filibuster may have appeared to some to be a great struggle over the voting rights of the Negro minority, but on the floor, where the participating senators stood, it fell far short of that.

Many senators recognized the maneuvering as politics, and little else. No more than 60-odd senators were present the first six days, which means about 36 were not sufficiently interested to attend the spectacle.

Even those who give lip-service to Democratic Floor Leader Barkley's cause against the poll tax restrictions of eight Southern states, knew in their hearts that probably not a single Negro in those states would ever vote as a result of this bill if it passed.

They just supported Barkley without enthusiasm, mainly because certain Negro organizations in the North wanted the legislation, and, therefore, it was a wise thing for them politically to follow along.

In the first place, everyone knows the Southern states have other laws (the Texas Primary Law) and other restrictions (educational qualifications) which can be used to keep Negroes away from the Democratic primaries more effectively than the $1 or $1.50 poll tax.

But even beyond those laws and restrictions, (which this bill did not propose to touch) the bill itself was a federal directive against a state tax levied by state legislatures, and therefore of undetermined, if not doubtful constitutional validity.

Senators could see, for this reason, that passage of the bill would just make another court case. Any state could rebel and sue.

Thus the whole show was considerably less vital to Negro voting than the tumult and shouting may have led the casual news reader to believe.

This does not mean the Southern Democratic filibusters were not bitter and angry. Typically, Senator McKellar called Barkley a "skunk" and meant it.

Others professed to see the Democratic party riding two horses going in opposite directions, with the obvious results of such a disaster unavoidable in the future.

The Southerners talked of getting a new party and a new Senate leader (one actually wanted to elect the Republican Leader McNary, on the ground that he represented the Democratic principles more adequately than Barkley).

The Southerners preferred to believe the rumor that the only reason they were faced with this bill was because Mr. Roosevelt had promised CIO's Phil Murray to bring it forward, and thus aid the CIO drive to organize Negro workers.

They rejected the similarly unconfirmed rumor that Mr. Roosevelt was dismayed at the spectacle and was getting his best political mechanic, the Economic Stabilizer Jimmy Byrnes, to stabilize the riot in the Senate.

But there will be no new party and no new leader. No one really believed Barkley was doing anything but acting on orders. Furthermore, there were no important bills, not even a war bill, ready for Senate consideration, except one about silver coins.

The time had been well chosen for staging a contest which will certainly do no personal political harm to Northern Democrats in their large Negro-voting home communities, or, in fact, to the Southern Democrats in their white-voting home districts.

Party unity and working harmony, however, will no doubt suffer. Scars left by this fight will be added to welts raised on the same subject by other administration acts, and no doubt will be reopened from time to time hereafter, until the Democratic presidential nomination is made in 1944.

As for the real issue of Negro voting in the South, no solution appears imminent through any legislation.

One of the eight states, Tennessee, is about to repeal its poll tax restriction. Around the Senate, they say—whether true or not—that this is because the Crump machine in Memphis is getting tired of paying the $1 or $1.50 for all the Negroes it votes each election day, and that it is espousing repeal as an economy measure to cut campaign expenditures.

In all the debate, it has become clear that Southern states are willing to repeal, but do not want the federal government assuming their power to do so.

A direct way in which Barkley and the administration could have avoided this anti-states rights legislation, and the fight and filibuster, as well, would have been to pass a resolution "requesting" the state legislatures to repeal the poll tax.

Such an expression of the sentiment of Congress would certainly have promoted repeal faster than the pending assumption of Federal power. Strangely, that peaceful method never occurred to anyone.

The whole spectacle adds further weight to the suggestion that both white and Negro leadership of the Negro problems be taken out of the hands of politicians and assumed by educators, social and economic leaders, who can get something constructive accomplished—perhaps even the dollar and the education for each Negro to permit him to vote.

Americus, Ga. Recorder
November 20, 1942

THE ANTI-POLL TAX BILL

There is much interest, especially in the South, in the fight now going on in the United States Senate over the pending anti-poll tax legislation, which is aimed at eight Southern States. This type of legislation has no place in Congress anytime, and especially at a time like the present when all effort should be devoted to the winning of the war.

The main issue in the fight which our Southern Senators are putting up against the legislation is not so much the merit of the poll tax law, but a matter of State's rights and an insult to the ability of Southern people to make their own local laws.

Senator Richard Russell of Georgia, gives a very clear explanation of the legislation and the Southern viewpoint in the following statement:

"The pending anti-poll-tax legislation is leveled at eight Southern States, and is designed to wipe out provisions which have been in the constitutions of some of these States, including Georgia, for more than a hundred years. No such effort to repeal a State Constitution by Federal Statue has ever been made in history. It is offered on the theory that the people of those States are so backward as to be incapable of local self-government, and among its most active and powerful advocates are Earl Browder, the head of the Communist Party in the United States, Walter White, the negro who directs the NAACP, and lobbyists for negro organizations.

"This is the first step in a the Federal Government take over and supervise elections in every precinct of the South. The advocates of this bill have seized upon the war and the pretext of national unity to cram it down our throats without even full discussion. It is an insult to the ability of the Southern people to make their own local laws, and it is base ingratitude amounting to a tragedy that it should be moved by the Democratic Leader, when we consider that it is aimed at the very people who have nourished the Democratic Party and kept it alive during its darkest hours.

"I hold no particular brief for the poll tax as a State institution. When I became Governor of Georgia our State Constitution provided that every person must have paid all taxes of every kind assessed against him before being entitled to vote. I signed the Constitutional amendment to eliminate that provision. Some of the Southern States have already repealed their poll tax laws, but if the State Constitution is to be repealed or amended it should be done in Georgia, by the State Legislature, and not in Washington by an unconstitutional statute chiefly supported by professional South-haters or reformers. Not even Ben Wade, Charles Sumner, and Thaddeus Stevens ever proposed such a measure, and the carpetbagger and scalawag Convention of 1868 left the poll tax in the Constitution which it framed while the South was prostrate beneath Federal bayonets.

"The very title of the bill is to 'Prevent Pernicious Political Activities.' I assert that the elections in Georgia are cleaner and purer than those in most of the States from whence those pushing the bill come. If such legislation with all of its implications were leveled at any other section singled out for attack who is worth a pinch of salt would oppose it and I shall fight with every power at my command this unwarranted invasion of my State and this reflection on my people."

Johnson City, Tenn. Press
November 22, 1942

News Behind The News

By PAUL MALLON

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Birmingham Post
Birmingham, Alabama

The Post Box

Nov. 25, 1942

How Far Will We Go To Win This War?

We all are students in a problem world of change and conflict. On the eve of this 1942 Thanksgiving this is truly a day to allow no mockery or selfish motive or measure to block the view or disturb the faith. It is indeed a glorious day of speed, in modern warpower, production ability and leadership. Oh we could count on every finger manpower, but, with all we hold in the palm of our hand, may this Thanksgiving bind us as a nation humble and grateful for blessing thus far and worthy of what we seek.

The hurt and sting of war in itself holds no glory. Our safe landing still remains a hope—a prayer.

This Thanksgiving we have a cross to carry high or drag in the dirt. Let's resolve, as we give thanks, to sacrifice more and count it a gracious privilege to give, buy bonds and deny self much that our boys in conflict may truly feel proud of the home front. Nov. 25, 1942

How can we forget to remember Pearl Harbor and recall when the small Mayflower band landed they did not find a table set to feast on. Despite the tough going for months afterward, they gave thanks for Divine Guidance and blessing. Nov. 25, 1942

Are we willing to spend and be spent? Are we willing to send and be sent? Are we willing to lead and be led? Are we willing to die and be dead? For America?

MRS. MAMIE HARTSFIELD,
Edgewater

* * *

Alabamians Pay Dearly For Their Blindness

The filibuster we witnessed in Washington last week would be a disgrace in time of peace but at a time like this such a thing is an outrage. I suppose it is just a sample of our Southern statesmanship. Nov. 25, 1942

Poll tax reform has been a political stepping stone in Alabama for years but once they step into office nothing more is heard about it until another election rolls around. I believe this was one of Governor Dixon's platform planks. Now he fears it will corrupt politics!

I believe in state rights but if these men were sincere in their promises but found that they were unable to fulfill them, they should welcome assistance from the Federal Government and cooperate with same in correcting this evil. If they merely used it to get into office and refuse to abide by their own word, then the people should exercise their rights as American citizens and appeal to the Federal Government for justice. Nov. 25

Such unjust poll tax systems as we have in Alabama is one cause of the economic conditions in the South. The shortsightedness of our officials in their stubborn refusal to do anything about it keeps the South politically weak and unable to compete with other parts of our nation where they have no such unjust requirements.

Alabama discriminates against her own native born Alabamians by forcing them to pay $1.50 per year all the way back to the time we were 21 before we can cast a vote, but out-of-staters and foreigners are not required to do this. So this deprives some of our best citizens of the right to vote because they aren't able to pay so much and too, they see the injustice of paying so much before they can cast a single vote and possibly not live to vote at all. Many of these are honest, intelligent, hard-working home owners and would not mind paying some poll tax if it were on a fairer basis.

Another cause for our economic ills is the South's blind loyalty to one political party. The Republicans know that regardless of all they could do for us the majority will "vote 'er straight." The Democrats know it too, and don't have to worry so we are contemptuously tossed into the lap of the Democratic Party while both parties vie with each other in wooing the doubtful states where the people think for themselves and know two chances are better than one and much better than none. Until the South realizes this we will never be able to take our rightful place in the nation.

MRS. LELA BURKHALTER.